



Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board Agenda

Wyre Borough Council
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**Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board meeting on
Thursday, 10 June 2021 at 3.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic
Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde. Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Poulton-le-
Fylde**

1. Election of Chairman

2. Chairmanship of Economic Prosperity Board

(Pages 5 - 8)

The newly elected Chairman of Economic Prosperity Board will introduce this item.

3. Apologies

4. Election of Vice Chairman

5. 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.

6. Confirmation of minutes

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting 25 March 2021.

7. Matters arising

Any matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

8. Dates of future meetings

To agree the following proposed dates and times of Economic

Prosperity Board meetings for the remainder of the 2021-2022 municipal year:

- Thursday 9 September 2021 2pm
- Thursday 9 December 2021 2pm
- Thursday 3 March 2022 2pm

9. Exclusion of public and press

The discussion of the reports on this agenda may involve the disclosure of “exempt information”, as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. If at any point during the meeting, the board wishes to move to confidential session, it will need to pass the following resolution:

“That the public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst the remaining agenda items 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”.

10. Business Investment Marketing

Presentation by WhistleJacket, the creative agency heading up Blackpool Makes it Work - Blackpool's inward investment marketing campaign.

11. Addressing carbon emissions on the Fylde Coast

Presentation by the Strategy, Policy & Research Manager, Blackpool Council (Scott Butterfield).

12. Flood Strategy

(Pages 9 - 16)

Report of the Director Development Services, Fylde Council (Paul Walker).

13. Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone: progress report

(Pages 17 - 22)

To review the work of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and its future work and priorities against its role and remit. Report of the Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council.

14. Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone: progress report

(Pages 23 - 28)

To review the work of Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone and its future work and priorities against its role and remit. Report of the Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council



DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MONITORING OFFICERS	ECONOMIC PROSPERITY BOARD	10 JUNE 2021	2
CHAIRMANSHIP OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY BOARD			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

To consider operating procedures for the Board together with Chairing and administrative arrangements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To re-align the roles of Chairing and administering the Board under the remit of one authority going forward as set out below with the Deputy Chairman being from the council next in position to take the Chair to aid continuity.

2021/22 – Wyre Council
2022/23 – Fylde Council
20223/24 – Blackpool Council
- That agenda setting meetings, together with an annual handover from the out-going Chairman to the incoming Chairman, become part of operating procedures of the Board.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

None regarding this matter.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

REPORT

3. The Chairmanship of the Economic Prosperity Board rotates annually between the principal members of the Board and an extract from the Terms of Reference of the EPB is set out below:
 - 6.1 *The chairmanship of the EPB will rotate annually between each of the principal members. The Chairman or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman (if one is appointed) or in his/her absence the member of the EPB elected for this purpose, shall preside at any meeting of the EPB.*
 - 6.2 *Appointments will be made for a maximum period not extending beyond each principal member's remaining term of office as a councillor.*
 - 6.3 *Where, at any meeting or part of a meeting of the EPB both the Chairman and Vice Chairman (if appointed) are either absent or unable to act as Chairman or Vice Chairman, the EPB shall elect one of the principal members of the EPB present at the meeting to preside for the balance of that meeting or part of the meeting, as appropriate. For the avoidance of doubt, the role of Chairman and Vice-Chairman (if appointed) vests in the principal member concerned and in their absence the role of Chairman or Vice-Chairman (if appointed) will not automatically fall to the relevant constituent Authority's substitute member.*
4. The Terms of Reference of the Board also specify that the hosting and administration should be undertaken by a lead authority each year in the following terms.
 - 8.1 *The EPB will be hosted by each constituent Authority in turn, with the Rota determined by a formal decision of the Board and the host Authority shall be Secretary to the Board ('the Secretary'). The Host Authority will also identify representatives to provide relevant financial, governance and legal advice to the EPB. For the avoidance of doubt, the Monitoring Officer of the host authority shall be 'Proper Officer' for the purposes of publishing the agendas, background papers and recording decisions. The historic official records of the EPB will pass to each host authority. The administrative costs of supporting the Board will be met equally by the constituent authorities, with each Authority being responsible for receiving and paying any travel or subsistence claims from its own members, or co-opted members representing that area.*
 - 8.2 *A 'Lead Authority' will be appointed by a formal decision of the EPB to deliver the economic development functions delegated to the Board. This Lead Authority may be the same as the Host Authority or may be another constituent authority.*
 - 8.3 *The functions of the Secretary shall be:*
 - a) *to maintain a record of membership of the EPB and any sub-committees or advisory groups appointed;*
 - b) *to summon meetings of the EPB or any sub-committees or advisory groups;*
 - c) *to prepare and send out the agenda for meetings of the EPB or any subcommittees or advisory groups; in consultation with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Board (or sub-committee/ advisory group);*
 - d) *to keep a record of the proceedings of the EPB or any sub-committees or advisory groups, including those in attendance, declarations of interests and to publish the minutes;*
 - e) *to take such administrative action as may be necessary to give effect to decisions of the EPB or any sub-committees or advisory groups;*
 - f) *to perform such other functions as may be determined by the EPB from time to time.*
5. For the last three years the Chairmanship, and the hosting and administration functions have been undertaken by differing councils, i.e. Chairmanship by one component council with the secretariat provided by another. All parties agree that a re-alignment to bring these two roles together would be expedient and the following rotation is suggested going forward.

2021/22 – Wyre Council

2022/23 – Fylde Council

20223/24 – Blackpool Council

6. Agenda setting meetings have also worked well during the 2020/21 tenure of office of Councillor Buckley as the Chairman and is suggested that this becomes an accepted operating procedure for the Board. These meetings would take place in advance of each formal meeting of the Board with the Chairman together with key officers supporting the Board.
7. It is also suggested that there is a handover meeting between the outgoing and in-coming Chairman each year. Formalising the role of a Deputy designate would also assist with continuity.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	
Legal	
Community Safety	
Human Rights and Equalities	
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	
Health & Safety and Risk Management	

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Tracy Manning	Tracy.manning@fylde.gov.ukl & Tel 01253 658521	2 June 2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection

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Report to:	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
Report Author:	Darren Bell, Head of Technical Services (Fylde Council) Clare Nolan Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnerships (Blackpool Council), Carl Green, Head of Engineering (Wyre Council)
Date of Meeting:	10 June 2021

FLOODING AND SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT ON THE FYLDE COAST

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To raise the issues of flooding and surface water management faced by the Fylde Coastal Authorities due to climate change and outline the assistance the Economic Prosperity Board can provide to increase community resilience.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

That the Economic Prosperity Board:

2.1 Notes the increasing risk of flooding and the importance of surface water management across the Fylde Coast.

2.2 Recognises the success that Fylde, Blackpool and Wyre Councils have had by working in partnership to replace coastal defences and improve bathing water quality.

2.3 Supports the respective authorities in addressing the challenge of flooding and surface water management through the Fylde Peninsular Water Management Partnership.

2.5 Invites the Heads of Service to investigate the potential to jointly establish a specialist drainage team (between the three districts and Lancashire CC) pooling existing resources and securing additional resources to allow greater integration of water management across the peninsular. This action is to be delivered as an action through the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership and reported back to the EPB.

2.6 Supports the innovation bids as outlined in section 4.5 of the report.

2.7 Invites the Heads of Service to work with United Utilities to identify surface water schemes that will be mutually beneficial in reducing flood risk.

3.0 Background information:

- 3.1 There is growing concern as to the increased incidents of flooding occurring on the Fylde Coast, affecting both property and land. These concerns are driven by three main factors:
- Climate change is resulting in higher sea levels, increased storm events and increased rainfall which current systems and assets are not designed for,
 - more housing development across the authorities and
 - changes to farming practices which are exacerbating the problem.
- 3.2 The majority of the area is serviced by a combined surface water/foul drainage system which is under pressure at times of high rainfall. The majority of the system is historic and is managed/owned by United Utilities.
- 3.3 The Fylde Coast is low lying and the relatively flat topography means that water courses drain slowly and are often tide locked. The drainage of the Fylde peninsular is impacted by the tidal influence which daily inhibits surface water flow from the ditch system reaching both the Ribble & Wyre rivers and ultimately the sea. Surface water is held back by tide-controlled gates on most of the stream outlets.
- 3.5 There is concern that regular maintenance of the ditches/dykes across the Fylde Peninsula is insufficient and that weeds and debris impede proper water flow and that there is insufficient maintenance and upgrading of the pumping stations that drain the area.
- 3.6 Lancashire County Council have undertaken a scrutiny review entitled [Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness in Lancashire](#). It is essential that any lessons learnt from this are fully embraced in the management of surface water in the area. There are some best practice examples across the three authorities including the Fylde Peninsular Water Management Group and the Wyre Flood forum.

4.0 Detailed Information

- 4.1 The Three Authorities of Fylde, Blackpool and Wyre work in close partnership with each other to deliver major infrastructure improvements like the replacement Coastal Defences along the Fylde Coast and Bathing Water Improvements. Flooding and surface water management is an issue that faces all Local Authorities across the Fylde Peninsula and they are working with groups like the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee at a regional level and the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Group at a local level.

4.2 RFCC – Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

The Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) is a committee established by the Environment Agency under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that brings together members appointed by Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA¹) and independent members with relevant experience for 3 purposes:

¹ Lead Local Flood Authorities are upper tier or unitary councils. In Lancashire they are:

- Blackburn with Darwen Council
- Blackpool Council
- Lancashire County Council

1. to ensure there are coherent plans for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines
2. to encourage efficient, targeted and risk-based investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management that represents value for money and benefits local communities
3. to provide a link between the Environment Agency, LLFA, other risk management authorities, and other relevant bodies to build understanding of flood and coastal erosion risks in its area

4.3 Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership

The Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership is a sub-regional partnership that formed in 2011 in response to the changes in Flood Risk Management Legislation, Bathing Water standards and to address the delivery of the Coastal Strategies for the Fylde Coast.

The Partnership comprises Fylde, Blackpool and Wyre Councils, Environment Agency, United Utilities, Lancashire County Council and Keep Britain Tidy. The purpose of the group is to provide an holistic, sustainable and collective approach to the management of:

- Coast protection,
- Bathing Waters,
- Flood Risk and Surface Water Management.

The group have been highly successful in securing and delivering £188m of Coast Protection Schemes, protecting 23,500 properties along the Fylde Coast. In addition, the Partnership have provided significant bathing water improvements particularly through the £100m investments by United Utilities.

In 2011 it was predicted that 7 of the 8 bathing waters on the Fylde Peninsula would be classified as poor when the revised bathing water classifications were implemented in 2014, as a result of the work of the Fylde Peninsula Partnership significant progress has been made and since .

The Fylde Peninsula Partnership also delivered the Fylde Coastal Programme that brought together the key partners delivering coastal defence schemes across the three authorities. The programme shared best practice and shared staff across the three authorities. The programme has secured and delivered £188m worth of Coastal Defence work across the Fylde Coast with further schemes planned over the next 6 years.

The Partnership is now focusing on the proposed business plan for 2021 – 2027 that will be published in Summer 2021 following the consultation process for the Lancashire Flood Risk Management Strategy

4.5 Innovative Flood Resilience Fund

In the 2020 Budget, the government announced a programme to test and demonstrate ways to help communities become more resilient to flooding and coastal change. The programme will allocate £150 million of the £200 million to 25 areas in England. Each of the selected partnership projects will receive on average £6 million between 2021 and 2027. The Environment Agency have allocated £50m to other flooding and coastal resilience activities including the development of long-term investment pathways in the Thames and Humber Estuaries, Yorkshire, and the Severn Valley. This fund will provide a fantastic opportunity to develop and test new and emerging approaches and ambitions set out in the new [Government Policy](#)

[Statement](#) and [National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy](#) and the 25 Year Plan

The programme called for bids from Lead Local Flood Authorities and or Coast Protection authorities. The emphasis was to work with Partners on the submission of the bids. Subsequently two Lancashire bids were submitted, Wyre Council on behalf of the Coastal Authorities submitted a bid and Blackpool Council submitted a Bid as a Lead Local Flood Authority on behalf of Lancashire.

The project objectives are set out below: -

Project 1 Submitted by Blackpool Council on behalf of a wider Lancashire Partnership to create a multi layers resilience for Lancashire.

The project objectives are -

- Objective 1 - Deliver 18 intervention projects through innovative resilience actions that will address flooding in communities who have a history (and are expected to continue) of not being able to be supported through traditional flood risk actions. Delivered in a phased approach across the project life.
- Objective 2 - To deliver multi layered resilience - property and infrastructure through integrated water management that will also deliver wider environmental (including [Water Framework Directive](#), [Bathing Water Directive](#), and other 25-year plan goals) and social benefits (that include building social capital and health and wellbeing, through connecting communities and natural capital data sets), throughout the project life.
- Objective 3 - create a 5-year plan starting from 2025 (but trialled in locations prior to this) that will deliver integrated infrastructure resilience benefits through combined cross sector and cross organizational working.
- Objective 4 - Complete a Lancashire wide policy review to produce recommendations that address the three key policy areas and focus on facilitating ongoing innovative working to see long lasting innovation, and delivery of resilience to ensure long term programmes, through agriculture, new developments and re-development improving urban areas flood resilience.
- Objective 5 - Through an Investment Strategy Officer, combine the work of Objective 3 and 4 to create a long-term adaptive project pipeline that will unlock innovative finance, such as green finance and private investment, to support longer term delivery of projects and sustainability of all projects.
- Objective 6 - Provide demonstrator projects and dissemination of community-based action to demonstrate best practice for communities to lead on community level resilience.
- Objective 7 - Deliver a Land Management programme with new innovative payment by results that will support improved community and infrastructure resilience, whilst increasing the business sustainability of farm businesses who need to adapt to meet current, and future flood resilience issues, through changing practices or diversification of business income, linked with Private sector investment (to achieve multiple outcomes), existing and the new Agri-environment scheme – Environmental Land Management Schemes.

Project 2 Ecological Community Owned Coastal Buffer Strips submitted by Wyre Council on behalf of North West Coast Protection Authorities - Natural Coastal Buffer Strips for Risk and Carbon Reduction

The project objectives are -

Creating a natural buffer strip around the coast has multi benefits, including reducing flood risk, coastal erosion, biodiversity, recreation and carbon capture.

The buffer strips proposed include:

- Developing salt marsh,
- Managed realignment,
- Reclaiming redundant brownfield sites,
- Dune systems and
- Intertidal lagoons to effectively drain the hinterland

Understanding the morphological system is essential to develop and retain this buffer strip, the coastal group partners have developed best practice in monitoring including: Autonomous radar, Wire Wall, satellite, and Drone photogrammetry. The proposal seeks to build upon these technologies to provide a single learning model of the coastal nearshore informed by autonomous monitoring.

The project will be documented as a practical user guide and disseminated through established portals.

The Ecological Community Owned Coastal Buffer Strips submitted by Wyre Council on behalf of North West Coast Protection Authorities - Natural Coastal Buffer Strips for Risk and Carbon Reduction was successful. The roll out of this project is currently being worked up by Wyre and the Coast Protection Authorities.

The multi layered resilience for Lancashire bid was unsuccessful. The development of the scheme proposed are of significant importance to ensure that they are developed through alternative funding sources.

4.6 Lancashire Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 -2027 (Local Strategy)

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires Lead Local Flood Authorities to prepare and maintain a local strategy for flood risk management in their area. Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council as lead local flood authorities and as a Lancashire Partnership have refreshed the existing local strategy. The refreshed local strategy and business plan has now been consulted upon. The closing date was the 19th March 2021, with the final strategy due to be published in September 2021.

The Strategy has been drafted to meet the ambitions of the [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England](#) which was published in Autumn 2020. The Local strategy will be reviewed again after the current spending review period 2021 - 2027

This Local Strategy sets out how Lead Flood Authorities will work with partners, businesses, and the Community to manage risk of flooding in Lancashire. The strategy is a document that sets out objectives and actions to manage local flood risk. The strategy also describes who will deliver the objectives and actions, and how they will be funded and coordinated. It also explains the role of the partners, including District and Borough Councils, Water Companies, Parishes and Town Councils.

The business plan describes in detail the objectives, the actions and how and when these will be delivered, the business plan will be monitored by the Lancashire Strategic Partnership and annually by the LLFA's Scrutiny process.

The business plan will also align to the recently published National Flood and Coastal erosion Risk management Action Plan 2021.

4.7 Specific Flood Risk Projects at Fylde, Blackpool and Wyre

Fylde Council Coastal Schemes

- St Annes Sea Wall £11.7m replacement hard sea defence feasibility commenced November 2020
- Fairhaven to Church Scar Coastal Defence Scheme £22.8 m complete June 2020
- Estuary Scheme Delivered by the Environment Agency
- Lytham to Warton Tidal Embankment
- Freckleton Marsh Tidal Embankment

Fylde Council Surface Water Management Schemes

- Lytham Park Cemetery sustainable drainage system £500k
- Blackpool Road main culvert replacement £125k
- Park View Playing Field pumping station £40k
- Staining surface water Drainage Scheme £65k

Blackpool Council

- Little Bispham to Bispham Coast protection scheme £30.89m
- Bispham Capital maintenance scheme £6.246m
- Beach Nourishment scheme £12.262m
- Sea Bees realignment £7.000m
- Fylde sand Dunes £1.276m
- Anchorsholme and Bispham Study (recommended in the Section 19 report)

Wyre Council

- Coastal Scheme Delivered by Wyre Council
 - Wyre Dune & Beach Management Scheme: £42m rock groyne and revetment scheme commencing 2021/22.
- Estuary Schemes delivered by Environment Agency
 - Hambleton Tidal Estuary scheme
 - Fleetwood Docks estuary scheme.
- Surface Water Schemes delivered with Wyre Rivers Trust and United Utilities.
 - Hillylaid wetland and flood storage area. Commenced
 - King Georges Playing fields: Wetland and storage area.
 - Jubilee Gardens SUDs and wetlands.

4.8 Fylde Council Member Working Group Review of Flooding and Surface Water Management

Fylde Council are currently undertaking a review of flooding and surface water management across the Borough. The Review commenced in November 2020 and will conclude later in 2021. The purpose of the review is:–

- To review the roles and responsibilities of the various organisations involved in the management of surface water in Fylde to ensure greater coordination and effectiveness of resources to reduce flooding in the future.
- To ensure that arrangements for dealing/responding to emergency flood incidents in Fylde are robust and effective to provide reassurance to members, residents and landowners.

The intended outcome will be to reduce flooding and the impacts of it and ensure a sustainable surface water drainage system for Fylde that can cope with development growth and climate change

4.9 Conclusion

In conclusion, flooding and surface water management is an issue that faces all our communities across the Fylde Coast. The three authorities of Fylde, Blackpool and Wyre work in close partnership with each other to address flooding and surface water management across the Fylde Coast. This is through groups like Turning Tides and the North West & North Wales Coastal Group at a regional level and the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Group at a local level.

The Government's 2020 National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England is a long-term vision for: a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100.

It has 3 long-term ambitions, underpinned by evidence about future risk and investment needs. They are:

- Climate resilient places: working with partners to bolster resilience to flooding and coastal change across the nation, both now and in the face of climate change.
- Today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate: making the right investment and planning decisions to secure sustainable growth and environmental improvements, as well as infrastructure resilient to flooding and coastal change.
- A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change: ensuring local people understand their risk to flooding and coastal change, and know their responsibilities and how to take action.

To deliver the Government's strategy locally will require a continued partnership approach, support for the programmes and activities to be delivered, support for the partner organisation and the potential formation of specialist drainage resources with the right skills, knowledge and experience to be able to address the issues in the long term.

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Report to:	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
Report Author:	Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council
Date of Meeting:	10 June 2021

1.0 Purpose of the report:

To review the work of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and its future work and priorities against its role and remit.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Board notes the report.

3.0 Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone: Progress Report

a) Masterplan

The EZ masterplan and delivery plans have now been refreshed, to reflect the new development since 2016. The updated reports were presented to Blackpool's Executive and approved in December 2020 reflecting the impact of changes in third party ownership across the site, requirements for changes required to satisfy Sport England and address Highway and transportation concerns. The public engagement exercise will commence on line early June until the first week in July, with a one day drop in event now also being planned with relaxation of Covid regulations.

The approved marketing strategy will continue to be implemented for the Enterprise Zone and where appropriate will be updated in line with the revised masterplan.

New Project Manager Posts:

The outstanding role has been advertised and a shortlist of three applicants drawn up, with interviews to take place early June date TBC. The importance of strengthening the project management resource is a very high priority to ensure continued successful and expanded delivery as the range and scale of direct delivery ramps up in 2021/22.

b) Fiscal Incentives

Work is continuing to lobby MHCLG to seek an extension of EZ fiscal benefits which are due to expire for Blackpool in March 22 for rates relief and November 23 for ECA's.

Local MPs have pledged their full support and we are awaiting further communication from the LEP Network as to next steps.

c) Current Activity Phase One

The second of three proposed planning applications designed to release the Common Edge Sports pitches was submitted in September. It includes a 3G sports pitch, grass rugby pitch, training area, reconfiguration and extension to existing car park, provision of associated hard-standing, fencing and landscaping, improvement works to the access from Common Edge Road including the creation of a new footway and cycleway.

Securing planning consent has been delayed by a series of issues raised by Sport England and Lancashire County Highways. These have all been responded to and additional detailed highway design, normally dealt with as part of S278 agreement, has been undertaken at the time of writing. Approval to responses and design proposals is still awaited although it is still hoped that the Application can be considered by Blackpool council planning committee at its meeting on the 8th June (the Fylde meeting will follow later in June). An oral update will be provided at the meeting. This will not delay the new sports pitches coming into use and phased release of existing pitches will allow highway preparation works to progress, however this may have an impact on the build of the changing room and spectator facilities and car park.

Further design work has continued both the eastern gateway access and the Common Edge Road junction upgrade led by Blackpool highways team, with further detailed site investigation being commissioned. Leasehold surrenders and renewals with sports clubs are still outstanding before the design can be finalised and the planning application submitted. Target for submission of the major planning application covering roads and commercial development is the second quarter 2021.

Visit Blackpool have agreed with Euro-Sporting International Tournament to host a European Youth Football Championship in Blackpool next year at Easter and May 2022. It will be played at the EZ new facilities and so the pressure is on to ensure the facilities are ready for this tournament to commence. Read more here: <https://blackpoollez.com/news/blackpool-to-host-its-own-european-youth-football-championships-in-2022/>

An informal online engagement exercise will go live on 4 June 2021 and will run for four weeks until 2 July. This will be supported by a local mail drop to local businesses and residents and supporting PR and social media coverage to publicise the opportunity to “have your say”. Subject to the Government’s Covid Recovery Roadmap, we are planning a supporting drop in event at South Shore Cricket Club on 1 July, so people can view the plans and ask the development team any questions they may have.

d) M55 Link Road

All funding is now in place including an EZ contribution of up to £1m with Fylde generated retained business rates growth monies being ring fenced toward this and initial site works have commenced with an anticipated 2024 completion.

e) Initial Development

Eric Wright Construction are on target to complete the shell of the 40,000sq ft unit in August , and will then commence a 20 week fit out programme which should see the unit fully occupied by Multiply in January 2022. The full £800,000 Growth Deal funding support was claimed before the deadline of end February 2021.

f) Current Planning Applications

Three live planning applications are currently being considered by Blackpool Council, with a significant number of retrospective applications anticipated for works/and use changes within the Squires Gate Industrial Estate. The planning application for the sports facilities, an application for a small fibre switching data centre to support roll out of superfast broadband across the Fylde Coast, and a retrospective application for construction of a cement batching plant at the Squires Gate Industrial Estate, which is attracting a degree of local objection on environmental impact grounds and causing other concerns relating to traffic and drainage.

g) Squires Gate Industrial Estate (Former Wellington Bomber Factory)

The new owners of Squires Gate Industrial Estate continue subdividing and letting units and an up to date tenancy schedule has been received from the new owners. Work is progressing to resolve technical issues relating to planning permissions, building regulation and fire certification, whilst individual rating assessments are still to be put in place for newly created individual units. The marketing officer is pursuing a potential meeting with the owners to discuss the new tenants in the property, and opportunities for joint development .

h) Communications Infrastructure

Blackpool Council and BITC launched their vision for a Digital Strategy on 6 May. Read more about the project [here](https://blackpoolez.com/news/a-digital-vision-for-blackpool/) and about further opportunities in the summer to get involved: <https://blackpoolez.com/news/a-digital-vision-for-blackpool/>

i) Fibre Blackpool

The Fibre Blackpool campaign continues to promote the roll out a local full fibre network for improved, gigabit capable, broadband internet connection to residents and businesses on the Fylde Coast. The dedicated website www.fibreblackpool.com is still receiving enquiries registering interest in the scheme and various suppliers are now active in the Blackpool area. The EZ marketing officer will provide marketing support for any co-op members for the benefit of EZ businesses. Discussions are now underway to secure extension of the LFFN network along the coast to serve Wyre and Fylde, particularly the rural areas of both authorities.

j) Marketing

A series of workshops are underway to deliver a branding refresh and collective messaging for all four LAMEC sites, and a combined communications strategy is to be implemented.

Regular newsletter updates have continued throughout lockdown providing Covid-19 business support advice with the Marketing Officer continuing to monitor the situation carefully. The next quarterly summer 2021 edition is planned for June.

Work is progressing with LCC to appoint a joint international agent for all four LAMEC sites and the procurement process to close to being finalised and an agent appointed.

Top 10 enquiries are:

No.	Date of enquiry	Target sector	Size	Type of enquiry
1	Jan 2021	DC	up to 125,000 sq ft	National company, land sale enquiry for data centre
2	Dec 2020	FM	up to 80,000 sq ft	Land sale for international wholesaler, Warehousing and distribution
3	Oct 2020	DC	Up to 30,000 sq ft	D&B LH for NW data centre facility requirement
4	NEW May 2021	DC	TBC	D&B LH for data centre facility and adjoining tech hub using green energy

5	Apr 2020	AV	25,000 sq ft	D&B sale hangar for specialised sim/helicopter training facilities, worldwide contracts
6	Nov 2020	E	20,000 sq ft	D&B sale for mix of owner/occupier and spec devt
7	Dec 2020	FM	Up to 80,000 sq ft	D&B LH for regional manufacturing and warehousing co.
8	May 2020	AV	2 acres	Land sale for hangar complex for engineering and storage, high net worth investment for airport
9	Nov 2020	FM	Up to 30,000 sq ft	D&B lease for fast growth, local target sector company
10	Aug 2019	ADM	20,000 sq ft	D&B sale for established local manufacturers constrained at existing premises
11	Dec 2020	ADM	Up to 2 acre plot for 20,000 sq ft	D&B sale for established local manufacturers constrained at existing premises

SECTORS: ADM - Adv. Manufacturing & engineering, AV - Aviation, OA - Office administration, FM - food manufacturing, E - Energy, DC – digital and creative, O - Other

k) Blackpool: The Place for Business

A verbal update will be given at the June meeting.

l) Blackpool Airport

Work is underway to apply to CAA for new operating licenses to come into effect from end of September and a specialist project manager appointed on a short term contract to lead the transition. Recruitment has commenced for a new Managing Director post.

Discussions have commenced to base a new CPL training facility at the airport initially looking at cohort of 20 pilots per annum and potentially rising to 100.

m) Third Party Development

There is no current third party development activity on site.

To date:

- A total of over 250 live enquiries are currently logged for Blackpool EZ.
- Some 114 businesses have located to the Enterprise Zone since April 2016.
- A gross cumulative total of 1639 jobs have located to the Enterprise Zone, this figure includes jobs new to the area, safeguarded jobs within Blackpool and construction full time equivalent jobs.

n) Project Team

The latest meeting of the Blackpool Airport EZ Project Team was hosted online on 26th March 2021 via MS Teams. The next meeting is due 4 June.

o) Risk Register

The Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone risk register is reviewed regularly with Blackpool's corporate risk team, the Project Board and the Programme Board (EPB) every quarter.

Key Risks:

Risk and Issues	Mitigation and Actions
Slight delays to construction due to Covid-19 working restrictions	Safety guidelines in place and work continuing. Progressing fiscal benefits extension proposals to government
After short period of uncertainty, property enquiries are returning but overall lack of market demand due to Covid-19/Brexit uncertainty and the commercial viability of development.	Clear marketing strategy defined and implementation underway
The airport has experienced a negative impact of Covid-19 however impact not as greatly felt as other larger regional airports and has remained open (observing restrictions) throughout pandemic.	Refresh of marketing plan, website and social media. Progressing architect's designs for new hangarage and remodelling for new commercial opportunities. Focussed targeting of core sector opportunities

p) Milestones

The table below lists key milestones which will be reviewed at the EZGC scheduled for 15 September 2021 and also at the next EZ Project Board on 7 July 2021.

Milestones	Dates
Proposition and identifying opportunities for data centre market	Ongoing
Land / property acquisitions x 4 (one exchange May – others June/July)	May 2021
Appoint international marketing agents LAMEC brand	JCompleted
Changing Rooms and car park/3G pitch planning application decision expected	June 2021
Appoint Common Edge Changing room and 3G pitches contractor	June 2021
Architectural feasibility study & design work for airport complete	August 2021
Focussed marketing of Common Edge phase 1 commences	July 2021
Design and outline planning application for eastern gateway access	August 2021
Design and outline planning application for Common Edge Road	August 2021
No. 12 grass football pitches ready for use	Sep 2021
Release of existing sports pitches and commencement of highway and utility infrastructure	Jan 2022
40,000 sq ft devt complete	Nov 2021
Fiscal benefit extension decision from HM Treasury	Nov 2021
Planning approval for highways	Feb 2022*
12 month construction contract for EGA access road	Feb 2022
Airport Control tower, fire station relocation planning application	Mar 2022
Outline planning app for airport redevelopment	Mar 2022
Decision on airport redevelopment planning application	July 2022
Commencement of works for airport redevelopment	July 2022

Delivery of spec devt. of 30,000 sq ft commercial unit for prospective tenant	Sept 2022
Replacement hangar development commenced	Sep 2022
Completion of airport redevelopment works	Autumn 2023

*Subject to Secretary of State approval of Greenbelt development

Report Author

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Report to:	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
Report Author:	Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council
Date of Meeting:	10 June 2021

1.0 Purpose of the report:

To review the work of Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone and its future work and priorities against its role and remit.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Board notes the report.

3.0 Hillhouse Enterprise Zone: Progress Report

a) Delivery Plan

Finalisation of the implementation and delivery plan is being progressed and amended to reflect both the closure of the Vinnolit facility and the loss of the proposed large scale waste to energy plant, and the progression of proposals by NPL Estates for an initial phase of speculative development totalling 6,100m² which would in part, assist the decanting of existing businesses from the old international business centre releasing that site for redevelopment. The accountable body EZ team are working with NPL to update the programme and costs estimates for delivery of enabling infrastructure and surveys. This will then be presented to Wyre Council for approval as the accountable body in summer 2021 and subsequently to the EPB, EZGC, LEP and MHCLG for information and endorsement.

NPL, who have secured funding from the Getting Building Fund toward the costs of essential infrastructure upgrades to enable the new speculative development to progress, are now preparing detailed planning applications for the development which should be submitted to Wyre council before the end of July, together with a planning application to relocate the existing gatehouse,

The project requires some urgent upgrading and repair to ageing enabling infrastructure, including site access road, upgrade of utilities, and an extension and repair to Hillhouse's water ring main and electricity supply mains. It will also incorporate the extension of the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) super-fast broadband in a ring around the site, linking to the recently completed LFFN extension of the Fibre from the Tramway to the Hillhouse gatehouse, which was funded by Wyre BC as EZ Accountable body.

The project has been allocated provisional funding of £630,000 from the Getting Building Fund, with additional match funding provided by Wyre council and NPL at £63,000 each.

A purchaser for the former Sainsbury retail site has been identified and their intention is to secure a planning consent for up to 250 homes and a smaller district retail centre which will support employment and provide some retained business rates growth. Planning applications are anticipated later this year and discussions are to be progressed regarding contributions toward enabling infrastructure.

NPL have also submitted a planning application for residential development of the former Thornton AFC site having now supported the relocation of the football club to their Poolfoot site. Once consent is granted and work commenced, this should see the completion of works to enable Bourne Road, the main access route to Hillhouse, to become an adopted Highway. In the meantime NPL have introduced a number of measures to reduce traffic speeds on Bourne Road.

b) MARKETING

A series of workshops are underway to discuss the branding and messaging for all four LAMEC sites and a combined communications strategy is to be implemented.

Regular newsletter updates have continued throughout lockdown providing Covid-19 business support advice with the Marketing Officer continuing to monitor the situation carefully. The next quarterly summer 2021 edition is planned for June.

Subject to completion of the formal procurement process in early June an agent has been identified to lead on international marketing for all four EZ's within the LAMEC cluster.

Current enquiries include:

Date of enquiry	Target sector	Size and type of enquiry
NEW April	N/K	200 jobs to site
Feb 2021	Waste to energy project	10,000 sq ft
Feb 2021	Construction	1 acre outdoor secure storage
Jan 2021	USA owned PPE manufacturer	200,000 sq ft
Jan 2021	Energy and renewables	20,000 sq ft new build industrial
Jan 2021	Organic waste recycling centre	10 – 20,000 sq ft industrial
Jan 2021	Waste to energy recycling project	Up to 2.5 acres
Jan 2021	Warehousing and distribution of beauty supplies	20,000 sq ft new build
May 2020	Manufacture of PVC compound	15,000 sq ft industrial
Jan 2020	Manufacturing of Kitchens	Up to 4 acres

c) Hydrogen Steering Group

Further Hydrogen Hub meetings have been put on hold until further notice due to furloughed key members of the group. These will be re-established once social distancing restrictions are lifted. Added impetus to the work of the group is anticipated in the wake of Government announcements about the new green agenda and the role of hydrogen as a clean fuel source for transportation.

Mark O'Brien of NPL attended a round table event with NW Insider re: The Great Green Transition on 26 May.

d) Site Activity

i) Vinnolit

Majority landowner NPL Estates have completed the purchase of the vacant property of the former Vinnolit site and are seeking planning consent to demolish with work likely to take up to 12 months releasing new sites for development resulting in increased long term employment. There is strong market interest in occupying former Vinnolit buildings which are to be retained and upgraded.

ii) Victrex

Global polymer solutions supplier Victrex, which is a FTSE 250 company with a 900-strong workforce, has made 79 redundancies across operations at its Thornton Cleveleys HQ due to the effects of Covid-19 on the business, but hopes to re-recruit once market stabilises post Brexit and Covid.

iii) Forsa Energy

Construction work has now completed and commissioning is underway for a new 20MW Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR) gas turbines, planning consent having been granted in 2017.. A number of construction jobs have been created by Forsa Energy and NPL/Wyre BC will confirm with the contractor the final numbers for the project.

iv) New companies on site

1. A digger company came onto site April 2021 and leasing 0.5 acre plot of land
2. A distribution business is now signed a 0.5 acre plot for haulage trucks and storage starting June 2021
3. An existing tenant on NPL Hillhouse site (engineering manufacturer) has agreed to purchase an existing warehouse on site in November 2021 – 6,000 sq ft
4. An entertainments company who is an existing tenants is moving to a larger warehouse with effect from June 2021 – 14,000 sq ft

e) Job Creation

A number of construction jobs have been created due to the start on site by Forsa Energy. The team continues to chase confirmation of how many construction full time equivalent jobs are currently on site and work will continue to make connections with Hillhouse tenants.

f) EZ Board Meetings

A Board meeting took place on 14 May online with a group of stakeholders including Hillhouse tenants. The date and time of the next meeting is to be confirmed.

g) EZ fiscal benefits

Work is continuing to lobby MHCLG to seek an extension of EZ fiscal benefits which have now expired at Hillhouse for rates relief and November 2023 for ECA's.

Local MPs have pledged their full support and we are chasing the LEP Network as to next steps.

i) Risk Register

The Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone risk register is regularly reviewed by Wyre Borough Council's corporate risk team and will be reviewed again at the upcoming Project Board. Copies will be available upon request.

Key risks:

Risk and Issues	Mitigation & Actions
Lack of market demand due to Covid-19/Brexit uncertainty and the commercial viability of development with existing scheme such as Energy from waste/Biomass plant which are in development being cancelled or postponed long term.	Allocated government Getting Building funding to help kick start essential infrastructure to better market the site to potential occupiers and stimulate private investment
Continuing delays in applying for and securing planning and highway approvals and potential land contamination issues that need to be overcome.	Close liaison with NPL, Wyre (accountable body) and LCC, refresh of EZ Project board and securing additional delivery support resource
Requirement for flood mitigation measures and utility upgrades across the site and issues surrounding the ability construct western access road over Fleetwood-Poulton railway line. Delay in commissioning essential pre-planning surveys	Close liaison with NPL, Wyre (accountable body) and LCC and securing additional delivery support resource
Failure to secure purchase or rights over the Fleetwood rail line will impact upon ability to construct Northern Access road and add costs.	Close liaison with NPL, Wyre (accountable body) and LCC
Decision on future use of rail line will impact on cost and timing of western access road if bridge is required	Participation in Fleetwood and Poulton working group chaired by LCC

k) Milestones:

The table below lists key milestones scheduled to be discussed and approved at the Hillhouse EZ Project Board on 14 May.

Milestones	Dates
Forsa Energy completion of build and commissioning	completed
NPL Grant agreement in place for Get Britain Building Fund	completed
Risk Register updated regularly by Project Board	May 2021
Appointment of joint international marketing agent LAMEC brand	May 2021
Planning application submitted utilities and infrastructure upgrade including new gatehouse	June 2021
60,000 sq ft speculative development of small multi-use units planning submitted*	Q2 2021
Revised Delivery Plan	June 2021
Procure state aid advice once Implementation plan complete	June 2021
Planning permission granted for utilities infrastructure and new gatehouse	Sept 2021

Construction commences for utilities infrastructure and new gatehouse	Sept 2021
A flood risk assessment to be scoped and commissioned for the entire site subject to identification of funding	Q3 2021
A transport assessment be scoped and commissioned for the entire site subject to identification of funding	Q3 2021
An Environmental and Ecology study to be scoped and commissioned for the entire site subject to identification of funding **	Q3 2021
Demolition and clearance of Vinnolit plots complete	Q2 2021
Completion of electric and water main upgrades*	Oct 2021
Subsequent roll out of fibre ducting on site	Q3 2021
Fiscal benefit extension decision from HM Treasury	Nov 2021

*Applications still to be submitted by NPL

** Habitat assessments to be undertaken Nov 21-Mar 22

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