

Report to:	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
Report Author:	Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, Blackpool Council
Date of Meeting:	2nd May 2018

ENTERPRISE ZONE GOVERNANCE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To propose amendments to the Governance arrangements for Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zones originally agreed in the Memoranda of Understanding signed on 9th November 2016 by each Local Authority, the LEP and the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note that the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board replaces the now dissolved Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Development Company as the Enterprise Zone Programme Board.
- 2.2 To approve the dissolution of the Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse Enterprise Zone Project Board and for its functions and representation to be distributed between the Enterprise Zone Programme Board and the individual Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse EZ Project Teams subject to agreement with the LEP EZ Governance Committee

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

Rationale for the changes

- 3.1 The Governance arrangements for the Enterprise Zones were originally agreed as part of each of the Memoranda of Understanding signed for the two Enterprise Zones, and based upon the structures then in place for the Enterprise Zones at Samlesbury and Warton. The current arrangements are shown in Annex 1.
- 3.2 Experience of operating the Governance arrangements is that trying to operate all 4 groups below the Lancashire LEP EZ Governance Committee is both inefficient and duplicative, especially in the Joint EZ Project Board, as meetings are tending to cover the same ground with broadly the same people, and there is occasional potential conflict of interest between the two zones – particularly in respect of competition for footloose inward investment or matters of commercial confidentiality.
- 3.3 As a consequence a discussion took place at the Joint EZ Project Board on 21st March (attended by member and officer representation from the Local Authorities, BEIS, DiT, Marketing Lancashire after which:

The Group agreed to dissolve the current Joint EZ Board, and there was the agreement that matters could be dealt with above it at the EPB level and below it at the EZ Team level.

It was noted that this arrangement would be subject to agreement by the Economic Prosperity Board and the LEP EZ Governance Committee.

3.4 Annex 2 shows the proposed arrangements with:

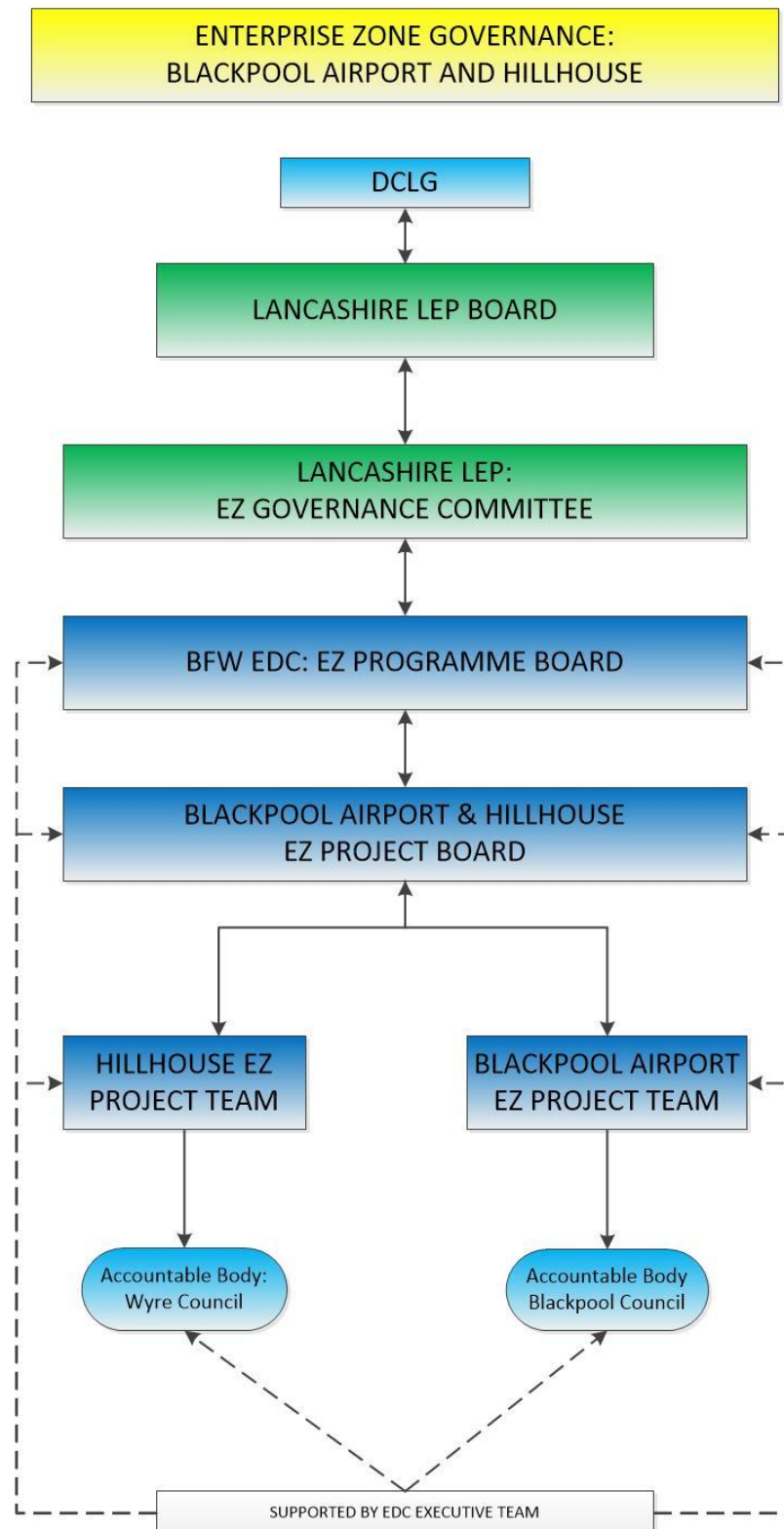
- Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHCLG) replacing DCLG
- Replacing BFWEDC with the Economic Prosperity Board as the EZ Programme Board
- Removing the Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse EZ Project Board
- Replacing reference to “supported by the EDC Executive Team” with “supported by Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre’s Executive teams led by Blackpool” – the latter being a reference to what is proposed by the three Chief Executives to the EPB and to reflect the day to day working arrangements now established between the three authorities

Terms of reference of the current Joint EZ Project Board

3.5 The five main responsibilities of the current EZ Project Board are outlined below together with how it is proposed that these are handled in italics.

1. To assume responsibility for the operational delivery of the EZs – *operational delivery to be handled by Project Teams for both EZs coordinated by the Head of Enterprise Zones.*
2. Meet prior to Programme Boards – *reports on progress and key issues will be made to each Programme Board meeting (i.e the Economic Prosperity Board) and also to the LEP EZ Governance Committee*
3. Membership to be drawn from main land owning stakeholders, senior Local authority officers including s151 officers plus observers from DiT, BEIS, MHCLG, Marketing Lancashire and the LEP – *all to be invited to the relevant Project Team (s). The Economic Prosperity Board also has the strengthening of the relationship with the LEP Board as one of its priorities*
4. Administer awards of business rates – *to be dealt with at Project Team level in accordance with the agreed Business Rate policy and in discussion with relevant S151 officers*
5. Provision to be made for nominated representatives from each Local Authority to attend Project Board and Project Teams if requested. *There will no longer be a Project Board but the Leaders of the three authorities are on the Economic Prosperity Board and within each Local Authority arrangements exist to brief lead members and invite them to relevant Project Teams as required.*

Annex 1: Current Governance Arrangements
agreed on 9th November 2016



Annex 2: Proposed Arrangements

