

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MONITORING OFFICER	COUNCIL	4 DECEMBER 2017	18

PROPOSAL TO DISSOLVE THE BLACKPOOL, FYLDE AND WYRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPANY AND FORM AN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY BOARD

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

To consider a more efficient and effective way of managing the governance of the economic development agenda across the Fylde Coast.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Finance and Democracy Committee recommend to Council to authorise the Leader of the Council, in her role as 'member' of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Development Company (EDC) to dissolve the aforementioned company. (This will require a special resolution of the 'members' of the company. In effect this will be the three Leaders of the three Councils signing a resolution to disestablish the company);
2. Subject to 1 above, to establish a Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) in the form of a Joint Committee and approve the Procedure Rules for that Board as appended at Appendix 1;
3. Subject to 1 above, to recommend to Council that the Leader of the Council be nominated as the Authority's representative on the EPB and that the Leader of the Council be authorised, in accordance with the Procedure Rules of the EPB, to appoint a substitute member to attend in her absence, should the need arise;
4. Subject to 1 above, that the servicing of the EPB be undertaken on a rotational basis between the constituent authorities and the EPB at its first meeting agree which Authority will commence with that role and also which Authority will be the 'Lead Authority' in terms of carrying out the economic development functions delegated to the EPB; and
5. Subject to 1 above, to invite Lancashire County Council to be a member of the EPB on the basis as set out in the Procedure Rules as set out at Appendix 1.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Individual Cabinet Member Decision (2010/008) April 2010 – Agreed for Fylde Council to become a member of the Fylde Coast Economic Development Company.

Finance and Democracy 20th November 2017

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	√
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	√
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	√
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	√
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	√

REPORT

1. In June 2016 a revised set of articles of association for the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Development Company was agreed by the Board and subsequently approved by the 'members' (the Leaders of the three Councils). These revised articles were intended to bring the articles up to date and reflect changes such as the departure of Lancashire County Council from the company.
2. As part of that process, a governance review was undertaken with a view to changing the articles to reflect the responsibility for programme managing delivery of the Enterprise Zones amongst other things.
3. Part of the review also involved the examination of examples of similar arrangements elsewhere across the country. Views were sought and feedback received from the Local Government Association (LGA), who encouraged partners to consider a series of options, some of which represented new ideas beyond the original remit of the review.
4. Based on this review of the EDC's current purpose and function and the scope of strategic economic development on the Fylde Coast, it was acknowledged that consideration should be given to alternative models of delivering the kind of governance required. For example, in many areas local partners and clusters of Local Authorities in functional economic areas deliver what is required through an 'Economic Prosperity Committee'. In the context of the Fylde coast, such a committee would comprise of the three councils, with partners (co-opted members), as opposed to the existing company structure. Such an arrangement would deliver effective oversight on the work being undertaken in the Enterprise Zones, political interface and accountability on strategic policy areas for the Fylde coast and the link with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.
5. The review has indicated that a company by its nature is a 'clunky' and inefficient way of delivering joined up working on economic development. A company does not naturally have an oversight role with councils whose representatives make up its Board (i.e. the Chief Executives) and also there are a number of overheads with a company that are not necessary for the duties required such as the production of accounts (whether trading or not), producing an annual confirmation statement, filing returns/ associated fees and paying for insurances for Directors. There is also no direct political accountability, in the current set up.
6. In considering the formation of a Joint Committee, a number of areas of good practice were reviewed and the attached at Appendix 1 is a draft set Procedure Rules.
7. Although legally it will be a joint committee, it is recommended that it be known as an Economic Prosperity Board, with in addition to the three Leaders of the Council, there be three co-opted members as formal members of the Board, to reflect the important role and view point that private sector representatives have had on the Economic Development Company (EDC).
8. The EDC has proved a good vehicle for officer collaboration, however the three Chief Executives now meet on a regular basis and will act as principal advisers to the new Board. In terms of formally supporting the Board, it is recommended that the servicing of the Board on a constitutional basis be done by rotation (unless otherwise agreed by the Board) and that one of the constituent Authorities acts as the 'Lead Authority' in terms of undertaking the economic duties delegated to the Board by the constituent authorities.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	Any costs can be subsumed by the relevant host council, or where appropriate shared across the constituent authorities. Any additional costs to Fylde Council will be contained within existing approved budgets.
Legal	A Joint Committee can be formed pursuant to powers under the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 and under the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The support for the Joint Committee could be provided through the constituent councils, as set out in the draft Procedure Rules.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	A joint committee approach will ensure Fylde coast involvement from members and officers.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Tracy Morrison	Email tracy.morrison@fylde.gov.uk Tel 01253 658521	10 October 2017

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection

Attached documents

Appendix A – Proposed Procedure Rules for the EPB.