

DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	COUNCIL	11 APRIL 2016	14
BLACKPOOL, FYLDE & WYRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPANY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

The report provides details of the governance arrangements in place for the Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Development (BFWEDC). The governance arrangements have been brought before Full Council at the request of the Development Management Committee after receiving an information item on progress with the BFWEDC. The minute from the Development Management Committee was to 'ask Full Council to consider the governance/feedback arrangements of the Economic Development Company and that an updated report be presented to committee (Development Management) in due course'.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommend that Council consider the governance/feedback arrangements of the Economic Development Company.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Development Management Committee January 20th 2016 resolved:

"To ask Full Council to consider the governance/feedback arrangements of the Economic Development Company (EDC) and that an updated report be presented to committee in due course."

A Special Full Council meeting was held on May 11th 2010 at Lowther Pavilion which included the item:

7. FYLDE COAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPANY pages 8-72

The recommendation was:

1. Decide whether to make any observations about the Leader's decision that the council should become a member of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Development Company.

The minute of the meeting resolved:

That the Council's interest in the activities of the Economic Development Company be recognised and taken into account by future leaders of the Council.

An Individual Cabinet Member Decision was made on April 14th 2010.

The Leader of the Council agreed to the recommendation in the report:

1. That the Council joins Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Wyre Borough Council as a member of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Development Company.

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

Background

The Blackpool Fylde & Wyre Economic Development Company (BFWEDC) is a partnership of Local Authorities and the Private sector with the aim of promoting and driving growth in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre sub region. The company was established to promote economic strategy, and drive inward investment, preserve employment and deliver specific Fylde coast projects that cut across one or more local authority. The BFWEDC is a company limited by guarantee with shareholding held equally by the three Fylde coast local authorities, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre. The company has a board of directors drawn from the member authorities and the private sector, and is currently chaired by Ms Bev Robinson, who is Chief Executive and Principal of Blackpool and the Fylde college. The Board is supported by the Fylde Coast Business Leaders Group and Joint Employment and Skills Advisory Group.

The Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Development Company was established to:

- Promote economic opportunity
- Attract new investment, helping secure and create employment opportunities
- Support new development to diversify and refresh the Fylde Coast economy
- To improve the Fylde Coast GVA (gross value added) and prospects for residents

The BFWEDC operates from premises in Blackpool on Church Street, and presently has three staff members, seconded from Blackpool Council: a full time Head of Enterprise & Investment; a part time Project Officer; and an unpaid part time Intern. The BFWEDC team works directly with the respective Economic Development teams in Wyre, Fylde, and Blackpool and at Lancashire County Council.

BFWEDC promotes inward investment into the Fylde Coast backing, and providing support for economic schemes, new investment incentives and government support packages available to businesses. The BFWEDC is dedicated to seeking new opportunities to improve the economic and social environment on the Fylde Coast and has six broad themes to help deliver key priorities:

- The visitor economy
- Infrastructure and strategic sites
- Key growth sectors
- Skills development
- Business support and engagement
- Housing

Full details of the initiatives that the EDC lead and engage on, and more background information can be found on the dedicated website at this link <http://www.bfwedc.co.uk/>

The Governance Arrangements of the EDC

The governance arrangements for BFWEDC that the Development Management Committee have asked Full Council to consider/feedback, are included in Section 13 of the original Articles of Association established in May 2010 and attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no direct financial implications from this report
Legal	There are no direct legal implications from this report
Community Safety	There are no direct community safety implications from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no direct human rights or equalities implications from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no direct sustainability or environmental impact implications from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no health & safety or risk management implications from this report

LEAD AUTHOR	TEL	DATE	DOC ID
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Full Council Report & Minute	May 2010	https://fylde.cmis.uk.com/fylde/Committees/FormerCommittees.aspx
BFWEDC Website	Current	http://www.bfwedc.co.uk/
Portfolio-Holder Decision Report	April 2010	Town Hall St Anne's
Final Decision Notice	14 April 2010	Town Hall St Anne's

Appendix 1: The Original Articles of Association for the Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Development Company