

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	22 November 2017

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

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

- 1.1 To consider the recommendation of the Executive from its meeting on 6 November 2017, regarding the management of the governance of the economic development agenda across the Fylde Coast.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

- 2.1 To authorise the Leader of the Council, in his 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).

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

- 3.1 To instill a stronger and robust governance framework for the economic development agenda across the Fylde Coast, bringing in greater political accountability.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To continue with the Economic Development Company as it is or reconstitute the company with a different set up.

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”.

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 The review has indicated that a company by its nature is a ‘clunky’, an inefficient way of delivering joined up working on economic development and there is also no direct political accountability, in the current set up. A common alternative was the formation of a joint committee amongst relevant councils charged with economic development, on a sub-regional basis. The Executive considered this proposal at its meeting on 6 November and agreed on behalf of Blackpool Council to form this Joint Committee. (Fylde and Wyre Borough Councils are considering the same proposal during this month).

5.5 Although legally it will be a joint committee, this body will be known as an Economic Prosperity Board. In addition to the three Leaders of the Council, there will also be three co-opted members as formal members of the Board. This is to reflect the important role and view point that private sector representatives have had on the Economic Development Company (EDC).

5.6 The formation of this Joint Committee leaves the company redundant and all three Councils are also being asked to give approval to dissolve the company, which is the purpose of this report (although the formation of the joint committee is an Executive function, approval to dissolve the company is a responsibility of Council).

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

## **6.0 List of Appendices**

Appendix 5(a) – Executive Decision Notice EX37/2017

A copy of the supporting documentation to this decision notice was submitted with the agenda for the Executive and can be found on the [Council's website](#)

## **7.0 Legal considerations:**

7.1 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.

## **8.0 Human Resources considerations:**

8.1 The support for the Joint Committee could be provided through the constituent councils, as set out in the draft Procedure Rules.

## **9.0 Equalities considerations:**

9.1 None.

## **10.0 Financial considerations:**

10.1 Any costs can be subsumed by the relevant host council, or where appropriate shared across the constituent authorities.

## **11.0 Risk management considerations:**

11.1 A joint committee approach will ensure Fylde Coast involvement from members and officers.

## **12.0 Ethical considerations:**

12.1 A joint committee approach would enhance democratic and political accountability.

## **13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Consultation has taken place with Leaders of the three Councils and the current directors of the Economic Development Company.

## **14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.