

Report to: Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board

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Date of Meeting: 17 December 2020

REVIEW OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY BOARD

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To review the work of the Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) and priorities against its role and remit. Note at Agenda Item 12 the Board will further consider its future direction and priorities

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the progress made by the Economic Prosperity Board and review priorities.

2.2 To note that Agenda item 12 will consider and agree items for future agendas.

3.0 Background information:

3.1 Purpose of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board:

The Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board was established in May 2018 to bring together local authority partners in a robust, formally constituted arrangement to help shape and drive economic development across the Fylde Coast. This would be undertaken by collaboration and mutual co-operation.

3.2 Governance

The approach to Governance was agreed as follows:

- a. The Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board will act as a Joint Committee 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.

- b. The Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board will comprise of Blackpool Borough Council, Fylde Borough Council and Wyre Borough Council ("constituent authorities") and three co-opted members, one each from each constituent area. Any reference to 'executive', 'executive arrangements', 'executive function' or 'committee system' has the meaning given by Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000.
- c. The Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board is not a self-standing legal entity but is part of its constituent authorities. Any legal commitment entered into pursuant of a decision of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board must be made by all constituent authorities.
- d. Political Proportionality rules will not apply to the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board as so constituted.
- e. The Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board may establish sub-committees or advisory groups, to undertake elements of its work, if required.
- f. The Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board has powers delegated to it by the constituent authorities in the following areas:
- to review future governance requirements and delivery arrangements and how these can be best achieved on the Fylde Coast;
 - to have direct oversight of key economic growth focussed projects and initiatives that the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board has influence over the funding of;
 - to have strategic oversight of other key growth focussed projects and initiatives across the Fylde Coast, and;
 - to lobby and carry out other activities that help achieve the promotion or improvement of economic wellbeing on the Fylde coast.
 - The Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board will not hold funds or monies on behalf of the constituent authorities.
- g. Each constituent authority operating executive arrangements will be responsible for considering whether it is necessary [in order to comply with Access to Information legislation regarding the publication of agendas including Forward Plan requirements] to treat prospective decisions as 'key decisions' and/ or have them included in their Forward Plan. A constituent authority operating a committee system will apply its own local statutory procedure

3.3 Remit of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board

To provide political and democratic accountability and in doing so:

- a. act as the key strategic forum for economic development issues on the Fylde coast and to make recommendations to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and other bodies on economic development investments and other priorities;
- b. have insight and the opportunity to review the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership LEP Board's activities and consider any further measures necessary to strengthen the relationship with the LEP Board;
- c. co-ordinate and monitor investment plans of the constituent authorities pertaining to economic growth at the discretion of the individual authorities;
- d. act as the Programme Board for Hillhouse Technology and Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zones (EZ's) and report into the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership LEP and its Enterprise Zone Governance Committee as appropriate;
- e. seek to ensure that adequate resources are made available to enable the delivery of Hillhouse Technology and Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zones and other key Fylde coast economic development priorities and projects;
- f. actively engage with a range of businesses on the Fylde coast in relation to economic development decision making and to engage with other stakeholders where appropriate;
- g. consider and advise on the appropriateness and viability of alternative, successor economic governance arrangements, and;
- h. co-ordinate and agree wider place-making policy within the Fylde coast economic footprint, wherever possible.

3.4 Priorities

Four priorities for the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board were agreed at the July 2018 meeting as follows:

a) Accelerated Growth focusing on our Enterprise Zones

Ensure the successful delivery of the Enterprise Zones and identify the skills needed to support meaningful growth for businesses and individuals. Identify and develop supply chain networks via partnerships and educational institutions with particular focus on Research and Development opportunities across Lancashire and the North West. Development to establish best practice, accessibility and promotion of continuing business support initiatives to provide longevity to harness businesses growth aspirations.

b) Connectivity

Develop physical infrastructure, strategic partnerships and digital networks that support growth within and around the Fylde Coast. Connectivity on a Lancashire and North West footprint through the promotion of skills, accessibility and technological provision in comparison to the offer of others. Strengthening partnerships at the regional level to drive forward opportunities developing higher skills in specialist sectors not necessarily within the Fylde Coast.

c) Marketing and Investment

Ensure effective marketing and investment in the Fylde Coast as a business investment location to complement the tourism marketing offer at a local/sub-regional/national/international level. Focusing on our priority sectors (eg including but not limited to the tourism economy) and working with Marketing Lancashire to ensure effective coordination and integration with the Lancashire offer

d) Housing Growth and Quality of Life

Improve the quality of rented housing through new potential flexibilities from Government via the ability to vary Housing Benefit / Local Housing Allowance rates. Include housing growth in the urban areas and on difficult sites, incorporating affordable energy costs, access to health and community provision to establish a destination with a 'sense of place'

3.5 Agenda Tracker

Appendix 7a identifies the range and frequency of issues discussed at the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board. These relate very closely to the first 3 priorities agreed by the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board primarily because the focus of business has been on issues of common interest that affect the whole area.

These include:

- Regular reviews of both Enterprise Zones
- Development of an effective business investment marketing campaign using the Business in Blackpool brand
- Pursuing funding bids to support strategic connectivity via the Fylde Coast Rail Loop
- Reviewing the opportunities for enhanced fibre connectivity
- Focusing on post-Covid economic recovery
- Joint support to secure a strategic inward investment

There has, however been little collective focus on housing through the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board directly although strategic housing matters in relation to future provision across the Fylde Coast sub-region is a remit of the Duty to Cooperate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Fylde Coast authorities and Lancashire County Council, alongside other strategic issues in relation to planning (Appendix 7b refers). In the light of the Planning White Paper the Memorandum of Understanding Officers Working Group may need to review the Memorandum of Understanding and address any changes which may be necessary including Climate Change which doesn't currently feature.

Linkages with partner organisations has developed with Department for International Trade and Marketing Lancashire and this meeting provides the opportunity to discuss the relationship with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership as a collective. Hitherto, whilst several Lancashire wide issues have been discussed, these have then been taken forward by the individual authorities at Lancashire Enterprise Partnership meetings.

The Board is invited to review its priorities as well as at Agenda Item 12 as items for future agenda

