

Subject:	Corporate Projects	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	1 st December 2011
Report of:	Chief Executive	Portfolio Holder:	Leader of the Council
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)		
1.1	That the contents of this report be noted.		

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To update Members on the progress of the Council's Corporate Projects namely action on the Valley Centre and work to Marl Pits
- 2.2 To gain members support for the ongoing feasibility work being undertaken in relation to the Trail Head Centre, Bacup.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
 - **A clean and green Rossendale** – creating a better environment for all.
 - **A healthy and successful Rossendale** – supporting vibrant communities and a strong economy.
 - **Responsive and value for money local services** – responding to and meeting the different needs of customers and improving the cost effectiveness of services.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

The Valley Centre

- 5.1 On the 28th September 2011 Full Council supported a motion to acquire and then demolish the Valley Centre, Rawtenstall within an agreed budget of £2.5million.
- 5.2 Officers were tasked with entering into negotiations with Ashcap (the former owners of the Valley Centre) to purchase the building by agreement and to then put in place actions to demolish the buildings leaving the site as public open space.
- 5.3 Negotiations for the purchase of the Valley Centre have been finalised and completion of the sale took place on 18th November 2011
- 5.4 Preparatory work for the demolition has been completed including an asbestos survey, topographical survey, utility mapping and bat survey. An architect has also been appointed to assist with the planning process and conservation issues.

- 5.5 Applications for Planning Permission and Conservation Area Consent will be submitted by the end of November and considered at a special meeting of the Development Control Committee to be held on the 11th January 2012.
- 5.6 Subject to planning approval, a tender for the demolition of the centre will be advertised. It is anticipated that works would commence on site in March 2012.

Former Town Hall and One Stop Shop

- 5.7 There is continued interest from a hotel developer to develop the site of the former town hall and one stop shop into a hotel / restaurant.
- 5.8 Discussions are at a very early stage but the developers have been encouraged by the Council's decision to purchase and demolish the Valley Centre which they view as a positive influence on the development of the whole site.
- 5.9 As discussions progress the Council will have to consider and explore the implications for the re-provision of a 'one stop shop' facility in Rawtenstall and what form this might take.

Marl Pits

- 5.10 Over recent weeks the Council's project managers have been negotiating with the National Grid in relation to diversion work required to be carried out on a mains gas supply, prior to the main on site construction work. The diversion work is now scheduled to commence on 28th November and should take 3 days. Subject to satisfactory completion the Council's main contractor Kier will mobilise on-site on 8th December.
- 5.11 Taking the previous contract programme duration of 35 weeks, this would lead to a completion date of 10th August 2012. However, given the current on-site date and the potential impact of winter Kier are currently reviewing the construction programme.
- 5.12 Council officers have also been working with Rossendale Leisure Trust and the Parkwood Tennis Club to resolve minor rectification work at Haslingden Sports Centre site and some light refresh work at Haslingden Swimming Pool.

Bacup Trail Head Centre

- 5.13 Earlier this year officers from Lancashire County Council and the Borough Council began a process of work to assess the viability of developing a trail head centre to support the mountain bike activities at Lee Quarry, Bacup.
- 5.14 Indications so far have shown that there is private sector interest in developing and operating a centre based within the remaining sites at Futures Park. However, more work needs to be done to develop the business case and agree the most appropriate route for procurement of the developer/operator.
- 5.15 It is intended that more formal updates on progress and the further development of the project will be provided through Bacup Neighbourhood Forum which has prioritised the development of the mountain biking facilities within its neighbourhood plan.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 Any financial implications arising from the report will be contained within previously identified budget resources.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 Any legal implications are commented upon in the body of the report.

8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

8.1 Any human resource implications will be met from existing resources.

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

9.1 None

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 Significant progress is being made on delivering the Council's key priority projects.

No background papers.