

<b>Subject:</b>	Regeneration Progress Report Q4		<b>Status:</b>	For Publication	
<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet		<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Executive		<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Regeneration, Leisure and Tourism	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forward Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Special Urgency	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
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<b>1.</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
1.1	Cabinet is asked to note the report

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To update Cabinet on progress with key regeneration and growth development

## 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

- **Regenerating Rossendale:** This priority focuses on regeneration in its broadest sense, so it means supporting communities that get on well together, attracting sustainable investment, promoting Rossendale, as well as working as an enabler to promote the physical regeneration of Rossendale.
- **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.
- **Clean Green Rossendale:** This priority focuses on clean streets and town centres and well managed open spaces, whilst recognising that the Council has to work with communities and as a partner to deliver this ambition.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The report is for information specific risk issues for individual projects are dealt with in specific reports on each project as required.

## 5. PROJECT UPDATE AND OVERVIEW

### 5.1 Tourism, Events and Promoting Rossendale

The Council continues to support and develop a number of new and developing key events in the Borough. There is a timetable of regular events on Rawtenstall Town Square throughout the Summer months including monthly Farmers and Clog Markets and special events such as the recent 1940's weekend, linking in with East Lancs Railway. Support has been agreed for new events including the Northern Grip mountain bike festival, which is coming to Bacup this year, and the new Rossendale Food Awards through Valley at Work. The 60s Festival will take place in mid-September and gets bigger and better this year. It has been shortlisted for the Northern Soul Awards 2017.

2017 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annual Rawtenstall Round the Hills Walk and the Council is working with the organisers to make it a great event.

The visitor guide '48 Hours in the Valley' is currently being updated and reprinted, and will be widely circulated.

## 5.2 Haslingden Task Force

A number of improvements are completed or underway in Haslingden, utilising the £100,000 set aside to provide funding for projects through Haslingden Task Force.

Progress continues to be made on Task Force projects including the shop front improvement scheme and promotion and branding. A new branding for Haslingden has been developed with the strapline Small Town Big Heart and the new Visit Haslingden website was launched in March together with a new Town Trail guide which has been well received.

The Council is working with Valley Heritage and Buttress Architects to provide support and guidance to businesses wishing to improve their shop fronts through the grant scheme, including submitting planning applications.

Completed projects include:

- Town Centre car parking reviewed and new signs put up
- Installation of additional Christmas lights
- Clean up events including Clean for the Queen
- Proposals developed for changes to on street parking, to improve safety and allow people to shop and residents to park. Proposals currently out for formal consultation by LCC.
- Haslingden in Bloom – 74 hanging baskets installed on businesses and poles throughout the town
- Pavement deep clean and chewing gum removal completed.
- New, fully inclusive, outdoor gym installed in Victoria Park comprising 6 pieces of equipment designed to work as a circuit to exercise different muscle groups.

## 5.3 The Whitaker

A £100,000 grant has been secured to enable the development of full RIBA stage D drawings as well as the development of activities and coordination plans. It is anticipated that this will lead to a full £2 million Heritage Lottery Fund application for the extension of the Whitaker Museum into the adjacent Barn and Stables. This would represent a major enhancement of the site and will greatly expand the number of events and activities that can take place; with the potential to boost visitor numbers.

The initial project development grant award is subject to several documents being produced before the project can be given permission to start; as is publicity which is subject to the same restriction. These are being produced by Rossendale Council who is the applicant on behalf of the Whitaker.

A project officer group and management board is in the process of being established to ensure effective delivery. As part of the process an external project manager will be appointed who will report to the project board.

## 5.4 Stubblee Park

The Masterplan delivery group is working through the improvements identified with the work

being undertaken partly by the Parks Dept. and partly through external grant funding as resources come available and with the support of the friends group, community greenhouses group and local councillors.

A new pump track which was installed in February has been a great success. Work will commence in June on the duck pond. The pond will be dredged and opened up, the mesh fencing removed and a viewing platform created for pond dipping etc. The sunken garden is being redesigned and re planted using £2,024 funding from Reaps Moss Fund.

The newly formed Stubbylee Partners Group has met twice to share information and co-ordinate activity around improvements, developments and events in the park.

## 5.5 **Waterfoot Centre**

Working with Proffitts CIC, extensive consultation has taken place and detailed plans drawn up for improvements to the car park and former playground area in the centre of Waterfoot. The Council has allocated £53,000 to the project which has now increased to £131k following successful funding applications (£48k from Viridor and £30k from Lancashire Environmental Fund). The outcome of a final funding application from Newground for £7k is awaited, following which the consulted plans will be realised by December 2017.

## 5.6 **Bacup THI**

Progress is well underway with the project and delivery of phases 2 and 3 and the public realm improvement as follows:

Phase 2 – Rosslee Construction Ltd appointed on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 to deliver Phase 2 and 3. Contractor is on site and is on target for a completion of Mid-July within the budget.

Phase 3a – Buildings drawings are with planning and properties are geared up for a start in summer 2017. Rosslee Construction Ltd are currently preparing costings.

Phase 3b – Drawings are currently under review. Properties and contractor geared up for an autumn delivery start date.

Public Realm proposals were out for local consultation in December 2016. Scheme is expected to be delivered in March 2018 subject to Highway's consultation and cabinet sign off.

## 5.7 **Brownfield register**

The Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations came into force on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and require all local authorities, including Rossendale, to publish and maintain a register of brownfield land at least annually, with the first Brownfield Registers to be published by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, The Register comprises two parts. Part 1 lists all previously developed land (PDL) sites considered suitable for development. Which are at least 0.25 ha in size, or capable of supporting five or more homes, and which could be delivered within 15 years. Part 2 of the Register (which is not mandatory) identifies sites that have been granted permission in principle (PIP), a new form of planning consent, which would then be followed up by a later technical development consent.

We are still awaiting an update to the National Planning Policy Guidance to provide

more details, which should be due later this summer.

As members will recall Rossendale produced a Pilot Brownfield Register, which is available on the Council's website <http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/brownfieldregister> This Brownfield Register will be updated in line with the Regulations and forthcoming guidance before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

## 5.8 Self-Build and Custom House building Register

Another statutory duty, set out in the Self-build and Custom House building Act of 2015 placed upon local authorities (since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016) is to publish and maintain a Self Build and Custom Building Register of individuals / groups who wish to acquire serviced plots to build their own houses. The key purpose of the Register is to identify the demand for self-build / custom build in each local authority in order to try and provide for this demand. One way of achieving this could be to make Council owned sites available for self-builders. Details of Rossendale's Register can be found at [www.rossendale.gov.uk/selfbuildregister](http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/selfbuildregister).

## 5.9 Futures Park and Trial Head Centre

The site of 2.6 hectares of land remains available for development, currently divided into 4 plots.

The Council has prioritised the development and delivery of a Trail Head Centre on one of the plots to serve mountain bikers and other users of Lee and Cragg Quarries as well as the proposed Valley of Stone path. The current proposal is for the Council to fund the build and to recover its investment via leasing the centre to one or more commercial operators. Designs and indicative costings for a centre and car park have been obtained in late 2016 and discussions are ongoing with a previously interested potential operator

This is a crucial site with the Rossendale area and it is important to maximise the opportunities that this site of national importance presents. Consideration is being given to a themed development that will create a cluster of complementary leisure businesses in the remaining commercial plots. The revised masterplan will be subject to green book economic analysis which will establish the economic potential of the site to the local area. This may be used to apply for national funding to unlock development.

Further to meetings with local user groups, RBC, in August 2016, responded to a LCC consultation seeking expressions of interest for alternative management arrangements for Lee Quarry. Following a formal response from LCC, at this stage it has been agreed that Pennine Mountain Bike Association will lead on the formation of a community interest company to manage and generate income from both Lee and Cragg Quarries. Discussion are on-going with LCC Officers regarding the current options and draft Heads of Terms have been shared, with overall liability and responsibility for any major issues with LCC, whilst the new CIC and or the Trail Head Centre operator to take on day to day management and operation of the site.

## 5.10 Adrenalin Valley

The work towards Rossendale's Adrenaline Valley strategy is progressing well, with:

- Grip & Go (Adrenaline Centre, Haslingden)
- Ski Rossendale (Rawtenstall)

- Whitworth Water-Ski Academy (Cowm Reservoir, Whitworth)
- Cowm Quarry (Whitworth)
- Lee Quarry (Bacup)
- Valley of Stone Greenway(Rawtenstall to Rochdale)

Work is well underway on creating a specific ‘Adrenaline Valley’ webpage on the Visit Lancashire website and leaflets and promotional material to advertise the offer, including an Adrenaline Valley’ events calendar as well as developing an inclusive shared customer offer and service standards.

### 5.11 Growth and Development Programme

Linked to the development of a new Local Plan, work continues to compile a comprehensive investment portfolio of key strategic housing, employment and mixed use sites to be brought forward as part of the Councils ‘sustainable growth pipeline’. The work includes ensuring an up to date understanding of ownership, designations, constraints and development options for all sites across the borough, both in public and private ownership. The work will inform future designations, development strategies and timescales, as well as the income potential from council tax, business rates, new homes bonus and capital receipts. A number of key sites being showcased at a Pennine Lancashire developer engagement event held earlier in 2017.

This work to create a ‘pipeline of sustainable growth opportunities’ will support the ambition to secure inward investment and economic development, both bringing new companies into Rossendale, and helping existing businesses to realise their growth ambitions.

### 5.12 Properties with approval for CPO

On the 26th November 2014, a report went to Cabinet. The report sought Member approval for a project to bring 25 empty and blighted properties back into use, under section 17 of the Housing Act 1985, and through a process of Enforced Sale or Compulsory Purchase Order, however this approach would only be used when necessary, and as a last resort.

Since then progress has been made working closely with owns to renovate or sell on for renovation. When properties are purchased for renovation the Empty Homes Officer works closely with new owners to keep the Council updated on renovations and to bring properties back into use within a reasonable period. If the owners have not engaged or stalled with renovations, external support has been commissioned to start the CPO. Progress the 25 listed properties is as below:

Returned to the Empty Homes programme	2 now managed by housing partner Calico 3 returned to owner
Sold and under renovation with new owner	2
Renovated and back into use.	3
Renovated and for Sale	2
Under renovation	7
CPO Stage	3
Voluntary agreement for Sale with Council	1
Going to Auction	1
Enforced Sale	1

In addition analysis of other existing empty and derelict properties has taken place. This will support a new strengthened way of dealing with properties that gives priority to nuisance and unsightly properties but also prioritises properties where the Council can raise or claw back revenue.

### 5.13 Affordable Warmth Scheme

Rossendale Borough Council are working in partnership with St Vincent's Care and Repair team to offer funding that will help keep Rossendale home warm this winter. The total amount of funding is £27,979.

The Affordable Warmth scheme is funded by Lancashire County Council's Green Energy Fund, which set aside funds to support home energy saving methods to help people stay warm over winter. Help is offered to people who have underlying health conditions, low incomes or with high heating costs who cannot afford to heat their homes and/or in receipt of benefits.

Funding covers:

- Servicing, repairs and replacement boilers and heating systems and associated works
- Repairs to and new radiators and radiator reflectors.
- Draught proofing measures
- Gas fire services and repairs.

The project was completed May 2017, a summary of properties that have benefitted from the funding, is as follows:

Homes receiving Affordable Warmth measures	25
Number of homes with children	2
Number of persons over 65	14
Location of homes	Whitworth 3, Bacup 11, Haslingden 10, Rising Bridge 1

### 5.14 Food inspections

It is important that that the food safety inspection programme is on target to ensure that food businesses are achieving appropriate standards and for the protection of public health, also the FSA may carry out an audit if set targets are not achieved, any audit by the FSA would be costly for the council not only in officer time but also in bad publicity.

The final outrun for 2016/17 was that the service achieved 98% of all planned visits. The final figures for the year saw 6 premises short of our 100% target. The reasons being - 2 premises are seasonal, one had temporarily stopped serving food, two were unavailable for a visit (home caterers and visits therefore need to planned in advance). The final one was a no access visit to a new business as only open 22:00 on but is only wet sales.

In terms of overall assessment ratings across Rossendale 452 rated 5 star, 65 rated 4, 18 rated 3, 4 rated 2, 9 rated 1, None rate 0

## 5.15 **Ski Rossendale**

The Council is working closely with the Ski Rossendale Board of Directors to support the enhancement of this facility. Improvements at the facility continue to progress and include:

The Phase 1 - Ski slope and café

This consists of the original £440k funding along with the councils loan and section 106 funding, total value £630k is on track for completion of the new ski hire building with cafe on the first floor by November 2017. The ski slope part of Phase 1 project is now installed and up and running (circa £220k) with a fantastic response by our customers.

Phase 2 - Development of the main slope. (the future vision)

The outcomes of a successful phase 1 will help to trigger a future phase 2 which forms part of our overall development plan for the site where the main slope will be developed. This will need significant funding to support such a development but will be a 'big' piece of the jigsaw for Ski Rossendale Centre

## 5.16 **Flood Resilience Grants**

The final date for applications was extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, for Flood Resilience Grants of up to £5,000 per property for properties that were flooded on or around Boxing day 2015.

Rossendale Borough Council received in total 556 applications, 530 were successfully approved totalling £2,497,378.99 of grant.

## 5.17 **East Lancs Railway**

We continue to work closely with East Lancs Railway on their future plans for Rawtenstall station. This has included revising the canopy configurations and a new layout for station buildings including construction of new toilets, café and store and a Planning Application is expected to follow.

Discussions are on-going to secure further events using Rawtenstall as an activities location, and a future development plan with the Chair of ELR.

## 5.18 **National Cycle Way**

To date work on the East Lancs Cycleway has been largely limited to design development and site investigation and a period of consultation by Lancashire County Council on the type of surfacing to be used on narrow sections of the route where a separate bridleway surface was not feasible. As a result of the consultation a more flexible surface than standard tarmac is to be used even though this is more expensive. Now this decision has been made, it is anticipated work can begin on several sections in the Spring. There has also been further investigation of the different options for using the tunnels through the Glen on the "Valley of Stone" Greenway and on "National Cycle Route 6" for options for the route around Baxenden Chemicals. Following initial drainage improvements, surfacing works are currently being undertaken on the section from Rakehead Lane to the tunnels. Work also started in January in Helmshore to create a new zebra crossing to the park at Snig Hole and this will be followed by resurfacing of the route down to the River Ogden. Mid-Pennine Arts have been developing ideas for interpretation panels and linked improvements in the Whitworth area and are shortly

to launch a competition to rename National Cycle Route 6

### 5.19 Arts development for Rossendale

Funding from the Arts Council has been secured for the third year running for the Stacksteads Lantern Parade. This year the bid was submitted directly by Stacksteads Countryside Park Group and the event will include new partners in Haslingden. The Council is working with partners including the Horse and Bamboo to develop a funding bid to the Arts Council to develop an audit and framework for arts and cultural activities in Rossendale and establish an Arts Festival.

### 5.20 Regenerating empty and dilapidated buildings

Following a review of empty buildings in Bacup, a strategy is being developed to both prioritise buildings and the improvement actions to be delivered. Key buildings included in the programme include:

- Woolworths Building
- Former Bingo Hall
- Former Conservative Club
- Old Forest Mill Site
- Market Hall
- Bacup Health Centre
- Waterside Mill
- Nat West Building
- Barclays Building

### 5.21 Economic Development Update

A new Economic Development Manager, Guy Darragh has been appointed in May. Work over the next few months will be focused on establishing the key priorities and the possible development of the service. The main area of activity will initially be focused on the advancement of new residential and employment site and supporting prioritised project development.

### 5.22 M66 Gateway

Three meetings of this officer working group have been held, following the completing and publication of the LCC M66 Gateway study report. It consists of senior officers from:

- Transdev (who operate the X41/X43)
- Transport for Greater Manchester
- Lancashire County Council
- Highways England
- Rossendale Borough Council

The remit of the Group is to identify issues that affect the performance of the A56/M66 corridor and to look at how improvements can be made. As much of the Study area is outside the Borough, working with partners is essential.

The Group performs an important data sharing role. For example, Transdev and Highways England are sharing congestion data to try and identify the reason behind delays. It also gives



the opportunity to discuss the current options for improvements, such as at Junction 18 of the M60 (Simister Island) and to influence Partner thinking, for example on plans for the proposed “Northern Gateway” development in Bury/Rochdale.

**COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**6. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

6.1 Financial matters are noted in the report or will be contained within existing budget resources.

**7. MONITORING OFFICER**

7.1 No additional comments. Matters requiring decision will be reported separately.

**8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

8.1 As part of the development and implementation of projects outlined above, consultation and community engagement will be undertake as appropriate.

8.2 This report provides only an update overview of new and existing regeneration projects. It is not determined therefore, the content of this report will not have any adverse or disproportionate impacts under the Council's Equality Policy or associated equality duties, and has not been assessed for equalities impacts.

8.3 Each project will/has given consideration to equalities specifically related to that project in a relevant and proportionate manner.

**9. CONCLUSION**

9.1 The report provides members with an insight into the progress of developing and delivering regeneration and growth projects across the borough and Regenerating Rossendale.

No background papers.