

Subject:	Regeneration Projects Q2 Report		Status:	For Publication	
Report to:	Cabinet		Date:	19 th October 2016	
Report of:	Director for Business		Portfolio Holders:	Regeneration & Leisure Customer Services & Health	
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forward Plan <input checked="" 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	Members note the contents of this report.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on important key developments for Rossendale.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- Priority 1: Regenerating Rossendale:** This priority focuses on regeneration in its broadest sense, so it means supporting communities that get on well together, attracting investment, promoting Rossendale, as well as working as an enabler to promote the physical regeneration of Rossendale.
- Priority 2: 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.
- Priority 3: 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 This is a for information report, not for decision. Specific risk issues form members to consider are dealt with in specific reports on each project and initiative covered.

5. PROJECTS OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

- 5.1 There are a number of projects being delivered, developed and operating during across the Borough and this report seeks to provide an update for Members.

A new Economic Development Manager post has been advertised and interviews are due to take place on 13th October 2016.

Work is underway to develop a suite of economic indicators for Rossendale, to help provide greater insight for Members on issues such as new business start ups, sector presence, growth and inward / outward investment. These will be established ready for the coming financial year.

As part of the Shadow Combined Authority a small number of workstreams have been established. Cllr Alyson Barnes has been appointed as Leader with oversight of the Prosperity workstream. This will help link Rossendale in to economic decision- making across Lancashire and with neighbouring Combined Authorities. The first meeting of the Prosperity Working Group will take place on 4th November 2016. In Pennine Lancashire, a new Investment Plan has been developed to reflect shared strategic priorities. See: <http://www.penninelancsplace.org/Shared%20Documents/Investment%20Plan.pdf>.

Lancashire County Council's financial circumstances remain challenging and their Property Strategy is at the final stages of development. Although the proposals still impact Rossendale, significant progress has been made in mitigating service loss particularly around libraries provision.

Data Spotlight: Tourism

Latest tourism data from Visit Lancashire shows Rossendale's tourism offer is appealing to even more people and continuing its upward trend. The latest data, for 2015, shows that Rossendale saw over 1.3million tourism visits to the area, increasing 2% on last year, outpacing average growth of 1.7% (64.38m visits) across Lancashire as a whole. The economic impact of tourism in the whole of Lancashire was up 3.1% to £3.81bn, with Rossendale again outperforming, achieving 3.2% growth to £52.713 million.

Rossendale Council worked hard in 2015 to redevelop Rossendale's tourism offer for Rossendale, with a new '48 Hours in the Valley' guide and an improved Visit Rossendale website. This work has paid off in the latest stats, with overnight visitor numbers increasing by 2.4% on last year, to 327,000 nights staying in the Valley, despite a slight decrease across the rest of Lancashire for staying visitors. The economic impact of staying visitors is £13.747million, a 7% increase on last year, showing that visitors are both staying more, and spending more locally when they do.

Rossendale Business Awards

The Rossendale Business Awards will take place on Wednesday November 9th at the Riverside, Whitworth. The Awards have seen record numbers of nominations, and new categories of Pride and Enterprising Woman have proved popular. The Council sponsors awards for New Business and Tourism.

5.2 Rawtenstall Town Centre

The proposed Phase 1 development of the Bus Station, Old Town Hall and associated external works was agreed in July 2016. The Council is now leading the work to develop and deliver this much needed improvement to making Rawtenstall town centre more accessible to residents and visitors and boosting the local economy.

In parallel with the Phase 1 delivery, work has started to secure inward investment and produce detailed plans for Phase 2 of Spinning Point. A briefing session was held with Members in June, and based on the agreed principles, engagement events and activities are taking place over the summer, with events including October 4th with Valley at Work identifying the need for a substantial engagement plan of events and activities between now and Spring 2017. These events will seek to identify the hopes, ideas, aspirations and

opportunities of people in Rossendale for this central location.

The current schedule aims to translate these ideas into a viable scheme, identify anchor investors and produce planning applications by Spring/Summer 2017. As part of this, a vision for the wider area will also be produced. Discussions are underway with Historic England to address a potential conflict between community desires for an open space / town square feel to the location, and conservation desires to reinstate a linear Bank Street shop frontage.

5.3 **New Hall Hey**

Pets at Home, Marks and Spencer Simply Food and TK Maxx are open and reporting positive trading figures for their new location. TK Maxx has taken on additional staff beyond their original forecasts. Further occupants are expected for the current site, and the land South of the current location.

5.4 **Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative**

Phase 1 of the THI project has a practical completion date of 30th September 2016. Following a significant works overrun, the project has undergone a review of its project governance, management and delivery, in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Changes have been made to each of these aspects to strengthen the delivery of future phases. A revised Public realm scheme is now ready for public comments, and the project has been re-profiled to ensure that it can be delivered within the overall project completion deadline of late Spring / early Summer 2018. Phase 2 is expected to be delivered in Spring 2017, and Phase 3 in Autumn. The next Board meeting will take place on 3rd November 2016, and a new stakeholder forum will be established before the end of the year.

The Pioneer Buildings and RSPA Building are now transformed, and the positive changes are attracting attention from heritage organisations and the local community. Both buildings will be revisited to deliver some further minor decorative enhancements, and close monitoring is in place during the defects period to ensure that any minor issues (as can be inevitable for heritage works of this nature) are dealt with promptly.

5.5 **Haslingden Task Force**

£100,000 has been set aside to provide funding for projects in Haslingden through Haslingden Task Force. The Haslingden Shop Front Improvement Scheme was launched in November and 27 Expressions of Interest were received by the deadline of 22 January. Grants of 50% of the cost are available up to a maximum of £2000.

Other projects underway through Haslingden Task Force include a pavement deep clean and improvements to on-street parking. A website and trail guide is now in the final stages of development.

5.6 **Promoting Rossendale**

The Visit Rossendale website and strengthened relationship with Visit Lancashire has resulted in a positive web presence for Rossendale, linking to the Rossendale News website, which is significantly accelerating the update and reach of Council news in Rossendale.

Bacup Easter Event, Rossendale 60s Festival, a new 'Brass on the Grass' and the 40s

festival were all great successes. Farmers and Clog Markets have proved successful and new opportunities are being developed with the organisers including a much enhanced Christmas Market and Christmas lights switch on scheduled for the last weekend in November.

New guidance on events grant funding has been developed to increase the transparency, reach and quality of events offered in Rossendale.

5.7 **Valley of Stone Greenway**

Further consultation is currently being undertaken on the use of the route and preferred surfacing. There are 4 main areas where this applies: Stacksteads, Britannia, Whitworth & Snig Hole. Consultation drop in events were held in these areas where people could view the plans and discuss the different surfacing options.

The initial programme envisaged £ 548k being spent during year 2015/16, the delays have resulted in £250k underspend which will now fall into year 2016/17. Issues with routing through key barrier sites and private lands continue to be explored, and the strategic links with the Trailhead Centre proposals are being strengthened. Lease renewals are taking place.

5.8 **Efforts Across the Valley to Regenerate Old Buildings** **The Waterside Mill**

Working with Valley Heritage on Waterside Mill we successfully secured a small grant from Historic England to undertake a feasibility study, resulting in submitting a significant grant application to the Heritage Lottery fund to redevelop the building for future Industrial use. Discussions regarding interim funding for make safe works are ongoing with Historic England, however the Council and partners would need to identify 20% match funding to secure a grant, and the scale of investment which would be needed to bring the building back into use is both substantial, and significantly higher than would be recovered from its restored value.

There have been some initial discussions with some of the owners of the Old Woolworths Building in Bacup and future opportunities for it will be developed as we progress the THI improvements.

Empty and Derelict Properties

Work continues to address and unlock a range of empty and potentially blighted domestic and commercial properties across Rossendale, identified in a CPO report. Of these, 15 have now been substantially improved, and a further report will be brought to Cabinet early next year providing a progress update, and suggesting options for dealing with newly identified blighted properties.

At the same time we continue to be ambitious for Rossendale and are delivering further improvements across the borough, at:

5.9 **Stubbylee Park**

Rossendale Council is working with local community groups and Newground to revitalise Stubbylee and Moorlands Parks in Bacup. A Masterplan for the park has been produced which includes improvements to the footpaths, the duck pond, rose garden, the sunken garden and landscaping and planting improvements across the park. Work on the

entrances has already begun and a new way marked 1 mile route round the park was launched on 19 February with a community walk. The ambitious plans will be delivered over the next 2 years and the Council is working to co-ordinate funding opportunities through Lancashire Environment Fund, Reaps Moss, Tesco Community Grants alongside utilising developer 106 monies, the council capital programme and the Parks team to deliver the plans.

5.10 Ski Rossendale

A £440,000 project has been approved by the Sport England Improvement Fund to provide a new Ski Centre and a new Ski Slope. A Council grant and loan to match the funds was agreed in Late 2015. The Funding Agreement was signed in August 2016 and work has now begun on-site. The first phase of the works – new nursery slopes - are expected to open by the start of November 2016. We are currently in negotiation for further developments and partnerships at Ski Rossendale, including the prospect of hosting ‘Park and Pipe’ (freestyle ski and snowboarding) training facilities for the British squad.

5.11 Whitaker Museum

A proposed £2 million heritage project for an extension of the Whitaker Museum into the adjacent Barn And Stables building currently being worked up to be funded under the Heritage Lottery Fund. This will be submitted in November 2016.

5.12 Victoria Park

Working with Friends of Victoria Park in Haslingden, state of the art outdoor gym equipment has being installed in the park and improvements to planting and maintenance have been carried out by the Operations department.

5.13 Waterfoot Centre

Following consultation in 2015, plans are being drawn up to make improvements to the car park and former playground area in the centre of Waterfoot. The Council has allocated £53,000 to the project and further grant funding is being sought to create a pleasant open space in the centre of the town. Extensive community consultation has taken place, and revised plans are now under development.

5.14 East Lancashire Railway

We have been working with East Lancs Railway on their future plans for Rawtenstall station. This has included seeking to secure further events using Rawtenstall as an activities location, and inputting to a future development plan including new canopies, improved toilet facilities and new events areas. We anticipate bringing forward more detailed proposals in partnership with them by the end of the calendar year. In parallel, discussions are underway regarding changes to the governance and working relationships between the ELR Trust, Company and three host local authorities.

We continue to search for new funding opportunities to support local communities across Rossendale – recent successes include:

5.15 Flood Resilience Grants

The government has allocated £200 million funding to help both residential and business properties affected by flooding to put in flood resilience measures to prevent future flooding. Grants of up to £5,000 can be applied for and we now have over 200 expressions of interest and applications. There is no funding for grants administration so

RBC is supporting this via existing officer capacity. We are also working with Newground to support residents and communities who need additional support in developing their applications.

5.16 **Affordable Warmth**

This project was funded by DCLG and administered by LCC to provide emergency measures to help elderly and vulnerable people in Rossendale during periods of extreme cold weather. Measures included emergency boiler repairs, emergency heaters, basic insulation, energy top up cards, electric blankets and warm packs. CLG have ceased this funding, however a further amount of £27,979 was awarded from LCC's Green Fund, with stricter criteria for funding capital works only, aiming to alleviate cold and fuel poverty. These funds are mainly dispersed on our behalf by St Vincent's Association, linking to the ongoing Care and Repair project which enables vulnerable households to access reliable, affordable maintenance and repairs for their properties.

5.17 **Investment Sites**

Linked to the work to develop a new Local Plan, an Investment Sites list and portfolio is being drawn up for Rossendale. This will seek to identify all the key strategic investment sites which can be used to secure inward investment and economic development, both bringing new companies into Rossendale, and helping existing businesses to realise their growth ambitions. While this is relevant from a Planning perspective, the information will also be used to bring forward a portfolio of investment opportunities for Rossendale. These will be themed, according to (in no particular order):

- Retail
- Eat and drink
- Leisure
- Culture
- Heritage
- Residential
- Visitors
- Industrial
- Community
- Environmental
- Connectivity
- Energy and Infrastructure

5.18 **Brownfield Register Pilot**

A grant of £10,000 applied for to DCLG in partnership with Pendle and Hyndburn to be an early adopter of a Brownfield Register in Rossendale. A draft of this was discussed at the Local Plan Steering Group in August 2016.

5.19 **LCC Projects and Opportunities**

A grant of £85,000 was approved in principle in Rossendale via LCC to improve domestic violence support, however proposed changes to Supported Living funding mean that the proposed delivery plans may not be sustainable. Further discussions are taking place with Together Housing and other delivery partners to identify a viable project.

A potential CLG funding opportunity for One Public Estate projects (projects to improve performance and efficiencies by more integrated working across public agencies and better use of public land) was identified in July, and RBC submitted two expressions of

interest for projects on joint working with 'blue light' organisations, and connectivity and masterplanning. Further discussions are underway about these, as this is a long term selection process.

5.20 Futures Park

Plans to develop a Trailhead Cycling Centre continue to be developed, and a bid was submitted to the Lancashire Growth Fund to progress it alongside wider Futures Park regeneration. This was ranked as a 2nd tier project (of 3 tiers) in LCC's bid, and we continue to work with the LEP and LCC to secure funding. Key issues to resolve including legacy funding arrangements for the maintenance of the quarry, and the broader layout of the site. A key expression of interest in Futures Park was withdrawn due to matters beyond the Council's control – while disappointing, it does present an opportunity to reconfigure the layout of the site, and market it to a broader range of interests. Work is also underway to unlock a legacy charge placed on the site associated with the NWDA, and strengthen the Trailhead designs and business plan.

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 Financial matters and implications are noted in the report where relevant. This is a for information report not requiring any decision.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

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

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

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. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

9.1 Following the agenda setting, consultation will be extended to other parties.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 There has, and continues to be, significant progress in achieving our ambitions for Rossendale. This has included leading and supporting bids for external funding and working with partners to provide the necessary resources to deliver projects and initiatives for Rossendale.

No Background Papers
