

Subject:	Regeneration Projects Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	19 th March 2014
Report of:	Health, Housing and Regeneration Manager	Portfolio Holder:	Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure
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.
1.2	Members approve the outline Year 2 Work Programme for the Rossendale Together Barnfield Partnership.
1.4	All future minor amendments to strategy and programme be delegated to the Head of Health, Housing & Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To provide Members with an update on Regeneration projects which will be commencing in Rossendale in 2014.
- 2.2 To seek approval for a Year 2 Programme of activity for the RTB Partnership.

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

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 There are a number of regeneration projects commencing and operating during 2014 and this report seeks to provide an update for Members.

Rossendale Rogue Landlords Scheme

- 5.2 In December 2013 the council were successful in being awarded £79,000 of funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government to support the development of a new scheme to deal with rogue landlords in Rossendale. The main focus for the scheme will be co-ordinated action across a number of agencies (DWP, Trading Standards, HMRC etc) to target rogue landlords operating in Rossendale and will include prosecution where evidence exists of criminal activity.
- 5.3 The scheme, known as Operation CARL (Co-ordination Against Rogue Landlords), commenced in February and is funded until March 2015.

Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative

- 5.4 In January 2014, the Heritage Lottery fund announced that Rossendale had been successful in its bid for a £2million Townscape Heritage Initiative fund for Bacup.
- 5.5 This provides funding over a five year period to support capital works which includes improvements to key buildings within Bacup town centre and a public realm scheme. These programmes are complimented by a programme of community activities and skills training opportunities.
- 5.6 The programme will commence in April 2014 and will be overseen by the Bacup THI Partnership Board. During the next 12 months the main focus will be upon:-
- Working with owners whose buildings are on the critical list for works to agree a scheme for their properties.
 - Consulting on a public realm scheme for the town centre.
 - Launching the Community Activity Plan.
 - Launching skills training and meet the contractor days.

Empty Homes Programme

- 5.7 The Council is the lead partner for the Pennine Lancashire Empty Homes Programme supported with funding provided by the Homes and Communities Agency.
- 5.8 The current scheme draws to a close in March 2015 and has a target to return 474 long term empty homes back into occupation by this date across Pennine Lancashire. Within this wider target the number of empty properties to be brought back into use is 120. The project is on track to deliver this outcome and so far the project has dealt with 47 properties in Rossendale through the scheme. (25 in Bacup/Stacksteads, 18 in Haslingden, 2 in Waterfoot and 2 in Rawtenstall).
- 5.9 During the term of the Programme the delivery team have been able to improve the scope of the programme to include commercial properties which have the potential to be converted back into residential use. This aspect of the programme has only just come into operation but will enhance the already successful scheme.

RTB Partnership

- 5.10 The 2014/2015 Work Programme for the RTB partnership is detailed below and lists a range of projects which the Partnership will focus upon during the next 12 months. It should be noted that additional projects may be added through the year as new opportunities present themselves.

- 5.11 The outline RTB Work Programme for 2014/2015 will focus on the following, but is flexible enough to allow other opportunities that may present themselves;
- Consultation and development of a viable and feasible option for the site of the former Valley Centre. This is likely to include land assembly, financing and availability of external funding, potential occupiers, bus station proposals and conservation issues.
 - Continue to work with the owners of the New Hall Hey site to find a solution for its redevelopment.
 - Work to support the delivery of the Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative programme.
 - Completion of the residential housing scheme on the site adjacent to Bacup Hub.
 - Development of a scheme to bring the semi-derelict Waterside Mill back into use as a commercial building.
 - Completion of the residential housing scheme on the Mytholme house site, Waterfoot.
 - Development of options for schemes for residential housing
 - Development of a list of priority sites and projects for years 3 and 4.
- 5.12 Progress will be monitored by Board Members which include the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio holder for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure and the Chief Executive.
- 5.13 A number of achievements have been made during the first year of the RTB Partnership:-
- Completed a National Architectural competition which resulted in the appointment of DAY Architectural to lead on the design and masterplan for the development of the former Valley Centre site.
 - Commenced two housing developments at the Mytholme House and Burnley Road Bacup sites.
 - Significantly progressed negotiations with West Register, the owners of the New Hall Hey sites, to unlock development and investment into these sites.

Haslingden Task Force

- 5.14 Whilst Haslingden has benefited from an SRB Funded programme in 1995 - 2001 new initiatives are now needed in order to support the town centre and sustain the benefits of the earlier work programme.
- 5.15 The Haslingden Task Force held its first meeting in March 2014 led by the Leader of the Council. It has concise Terms of Reference with a focus on bringing together key partners to create a focus to develop a high level strategic approach to the issues facing the town and to develop and co-ordinate activities.
- 5.16 In conjunction with the establishment of the Task Force a £100,000 regeneration fund has been created to provide the necessary resources to support initiatives and attract match funding from other funding sources.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 Financial matters and implications are noted in the report.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1 No additional comments.

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 undertaken 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 equality 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 Portfolio holders, RTB Board Members, RTB Operational Group.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 There has, and continues to be, significant progress in achieving our regeneration ambitions for the borough and both leading and supporting bids for external funding to provide the necessary resources to deliver projects and initiatives for Rossendale.

No background papers