

Subject:	Regeneration Projects Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	9 th March 2016
Report of:	Chief Executive	Portfolio Holders:	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	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:

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.

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 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 projects being delivered, developed and operating across the Borough and this report seeks to provide an update for Members.

5.2 Rawtenstall Town Centre

The proposed development of the site for the bus station and retail and café units together with facilities for car parking and landscaping was considered by the Development Control Committee and they have approved the application.

Work will now begin on programme delivery and a much need improvement to making

Rawtenstall town centre more accessible to residents and visitors and support to the local town centre economy.

5.3 **New Hall Hey**

Pets at Home have occupied one of the units. Marks and Spencer Simply Food will open on 31 March and TK Maxx are due to open in mid-July. The Council supported TK Maxx during their recruitment drive at Futures Park during February with their employment of local people. We are working closely with the team at Marks and Spencer to support the arrangements for a successful opening and a great success for this Council.

5.4 **Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative**

Work aims to be completed on the Pioneer Building by end of February and on the RSPCA building at 33 St James Street by mid-March as part of a successful £2 million heritage project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to refurbish the historic mill town of Bacup.

This will bring us to 25% completion on the entire programme. Planning permission has now been received on the Real Building 6-8 St James Square and we expect to get final costings for this by the end of the week. We expect to exchange contracts with the owner by early March with a view to handing over the site to the contractor by mid-March as the next building to be refurbished. The next block of buildings is 23-31 St James Street which we expect to gain planning permission for by the end of February. Once we have final costings for these buildings we will be in a position to offer contracts to the individual owners and aim to hand the next block over to the contractor by early April. The final two blocks are 13-21 St James Street and 3-11 St James Street. Drawings are currently being finalised for 13-21 St James Street in consultation with the owners and we aim to submit these for planning permission by the end of end of March with a view to handing these over to the contractor in May. Drawings have not yet been done for the final block 3-11 St James Street but we aim to get these done by the end of April and submit them for planning permission by early May.

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. Officers in Regeneration and Planning are working together to process the applications, agree works to be undertaken and provide support for those businesses who will require planning permission for the improvement works.

Other projects underway through Haslingden Task Force include a pavement deep clean and improvements to on street parking.

Haslingden Task Force is working with a website and design company on ideas to promote Haslingden including branding and a town trail guide.

5.6 **Promoting Rossendale**

Visit Rossendale website set up and the visitor guide 48 Hours in Rossendale produced. Continued commitment to organising and supporting events throughout Rossendale e.g. Bacup Easter Event, Rossendale 60s Festival, Christmas Events. A new event 'Brass on the Grass' in July is being planning in conjunction with the Whitaker. Discussions are

ongoing regarding the establishment of a monthly farmers market in Rawtenstall. Promoting Rossendale Board continues to meet to co-ordinate plans and activities to promote 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 and Snig Hole. Consultation drop in events will also be held in these areas where people can view the plans and discuss the different surfacing options.

5.8 Efforts Across the Valley to Regenerate Old Buildings

We continue to have discussions with the owners where possible and with interested parties in relation to The Old Market Hall in Bacup, Waterside Mill in Bacup and the Old Woolworths Building in St James Square in Bacup.

With the Old Market Hall we met with the current owner to look at whether he would be interested in putting in a joint bid to The Heritage Enterprise fund for a community sports facility using this building. The owner has since put the site back to Auction with a view to selling it to a property developer who was interested in using the site for housing.

We have worked with the Building Preservation Trust on Waterside Mill and they are currently approaching Heritage England with a view to getting some feasibility funding to look at whether the site has a realistic economic use for the future.

There have been some initial discussions with a property developer in relation to options for the Old Woolworths Building in Bacup and future opportunities for the site as we complete the THI improvements.

5.9 Parks within the Borough

There has been various projects and improvements within the Parks including upgrades to Western Park including a kick-about surface, fencing and a junior play unit, an adult gym at Millennium Green Lumb, resurfacing of Greenfield Gardens, tidying up and drainage works at Victoria Park and the provision of a kick-about pitch at The Orchard. There has also been a new programme of bulb planting within the Borough which includes Bolton Road North, Rushbed, Crawshawbooth and at the entrance gate at Victoria Park.

5.10 Sport and Leisure

The new Grip and Go climbing facility which opened in July 2015 at Haslingden Sports Centre has had a very successful first 9 months. The new venture features 18 innovative and interactive climbing walls and challenges which has attracted visitors from all over the North West. The facility has generated income of around £180,000 (forecast to end of March 2016), with a new café adding an additional £20,000 of income. Overall the facility will have attracted over 15,000 participants up to the end of the 2015-16 financial year. Over 20 local young people have received part time work through the project.

The Leisure Trust's in school coaching programme continues to grow rapidly, with over 2300 hours of coaching carried out in schools during the year, with approximately 57,500 interactions with students. The Trust also hosted 70 school tournaments in a variety of sports. The Leisure Trusts community coaching programme is self-sufficient and generates

a small operating surplus each year which is reinvested into the programme.

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

5.11 Stubblelee Park

Rossendale Council is working with local community groups and Newground to revitalise Stubblelee 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. Climbing boulders will be installed near the entrance to the park to provide creative play. 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 many aspects of the plans.

5.12 Ski Rossendale

A £440,000 project has just been approved by the Sport England Improvement Fund to provide a new Ski Centre and a new Ski Slope and we are waiting to get the Local Funding Agreement signed off from Sport England so we can begin spend. Work on the slope aims to start early March and work on the Ski Centre aims to take place over the summer with a view to being completed before the winter season which is Ski Rossendale's busiest time.

5.13 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 to be submitted in May 2016.

5.14 Victoria Park

Working with Friends of Victoria Park in Haslingden, state of the art outdoor gym equipment is being installed in the park and improvements to planting and maintenance will be carried out by the parks department.

5.15 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.

5.16 Grants

New grants scheme Rossendale Community Fund was launched in October 2015 and a second round of funding will shortly be awarded. The scheme provides grants of up to £1000 to support projects that enable families and young people aged up to the age of 25 to flourish, learn and develop skills or knowledge. The Council also continues to offer community grants up to £500 through the Neighbourhood Forums

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

5.17 Property Level Flood Resilience Grant

The government has allocated a £200 million funding pot to help both residential and business properties affected by flooding during the Christmas period to put in flood resilience measures to prevent future flooding. Grants of up to £5000 can be applied for

5.18 Affordable Warmth

This project is 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 include emergency boiler repairs, emergency heaters, basic insulation, energy top up cards, electric blankets and warm packs. An amount of £27,979 was awarded for this year. Spend is currently at £20,067 and the money has to be spent by the end of March although a small amount can usually be carried forward into next year.

The Council is working with authorities across Lancashire to promote the county wide pilot project Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) which co-ordinates grants and other funding sources to provide new heating measures and insulation in domestic properties.

5.19 Bacup CCTV

A £100,000 bid was submitted to the Police Commissioner's Proceeds of Crime Fund in January to install and replace all 7 CCTV units in Bacup with modern HD equipment that can be remotely accessed. Decision in April 2016

5.20 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. If successful work will start on this in May by Forward Planning

5.21 Domestic Violence Project

A grant of £85,000 has been approved in principle in Rossendale via LCC to improve domestic violence support. Currently waiting for approval to draw down money for this.

5.22 3G/4G Sports Pitch at Haslingden

A £200,000 bid for a new 3G Sports Pitch at Haslingden Sports Centre to be submitted in September to Sport England. Currently looking at business plan and changing facilities.

5.23 Creation of MUGA at Loveclough Park

Currently discussing with Proffitts whether RBC could take the lead on £86,365 bid to Sport England to create multi-use games area in Loveclough Park.

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 Financial matters and implications are noted in the report.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 No additional comments.

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 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 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 Portfolio holders, RTB Board Members, RTB Operational Group.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 There has, and continues to be, significant progress in achieving our ambitions for the borough and both 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