

Subject:	Regeneration Progress Update Report	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	13 th September 2017
Report of:	Regeneration and Economic Development	Portfolio Holder:	Regeneration, Leisure and Tourism
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
	It is recommended that members note the content of this report.
	All future minor amendments to the policy to be delegated to the Economic Development Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of progress made in the Regeneration, Leisure and Tourism portfolio.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

- **A clean and green Rossendale:** our priority is to keep Rossendale clean and green for all of Rossendale's residents and visitors, and to take available opportunities to recycle and use energy from renewable sources more efficiently.
- **A connected and successful Rossendale that welcomes sustainable growth:** our priority is to ensure that we are well connected to our residents, key partners and stakeholders. We want to make the most of every pound we spend and we are always looking for new and innovative ways to make the resources we do have, work harder for us.
- **A proud, healthy and vibrant Rossendale:** our priority is to ensure that we are creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant place for people to live and visit.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS PROJECT UPDATE AND OVERVIEW

5.1 Leisure and Tourism

A review of the tourism structure has now been concluded and it is envisaged that the Promoting Rossendale Board becomes more strategic and takes a monitoring and leadership role. The events groups; events safety group; adrenaline valley and a new arts and culture group will report into the promoting Rossendale Board.

Events Group

The Council continues to provide support to establish and develop key events in the Borough that have the capacity to attract visitors to the Valley and support economic growth. Support

has been provided for new, high profile events including the Northern Grip mountain bike festival which took place in Lee Quarry and Stubbylee Park in July and the On Paper literature festival organised by APNA in Haslingden which takes place 12-27 August in various venues in Haslingden and Rawtenstall. The Northern Grip Festival was held for the first time in Rossendale this year, having been held in Ramsbottom last year, and was a great success. Discussions are underway with the organisers regarding next year's festival.

Financial support has also been provided for the first Rossendale Food and Drink Awards through Valley at Work, which is being developed as part of the Rossendale Business Awards in November. 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 50th anniversary of the annual Rossendale Round the Hills Walk and the Council is working with the organisers to make it a great event. Funding has been provided for waymarker discs to signpost the entire 18 mile route.

The visitor guide '48 Hours in the Valley' has recently been updated and reprinted, and will be widely circulated.

Events Safety Group

This meets on a regular basis with partners from the blue light services to assess the safety of planned events in the borough.

Adrenalin Valley Group

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.

Arts and culture Group

This group will be established later in the year and will focus on arts and culture type facilities such as the East Lancs Railway, Whitaker and Boo.

5.2 **Projects**

Economic Development Update

A new Economic Development Strategy that will enhance the offer to businesses and individuals has been drafted and is being discussed with partners and stakeholders before being adopted.

A new Invest in Rossendale website is being developed that will be mainly aimed at existing and inward investment businesses. This will link into the new Council website and will offer a seamless transition for users.

A list of Rossendale businesses in the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) LEADER (below £35,000 grants) and Growth Programme (above £35,000 grants) areas has been developed. Letters were issued in July to around 200 business rate payers informing them of this funding opportunity. These have been followed up and thirteen enquiries have been received of which two meets the eligibility criteria and is being assisted with an outline application; the remaining eleven have been contacted and encouraged to access Lancashire wide support. A press release is also in the process of being produced to cover the non-business ratepayers that may be eligible for LEADER.

Haslingden Task Force

Haslingden Task Force met in July to review progress and look at future plans. Current projects include Haslingden Shop Front Scheme and promotion and branding for the town. The shop front scheme is ongoing, although take up has been limited for various reasons. 27 businesses initially expressed an interest in the scheme, of which 2 have completed work, 2 have submitted planning applications for work, 1 is in the process of preparing a planning application and 2 have been given the go ahead and quotes / invoices are awaited before the grant can be approved. 1 has withdrawn from the scheme as agreement could not be reached regarding work to be done.

In order to support businesses through the process a firm of architects have been working with them to look at options, prepare plans and submit planning applications where required. This is funded by the Task Force.

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 and a town centre map / flyer. Work is on-going with local community groups to keep the website up to date with details of local events and initiatives.

The Task Force agreed in July to focus on re-establishing the traders group in order to support the development of a thriving business sector on the town.

A relaunch of the shop front scheme is currently on hold whilst options are explored to use much of the remaining Task Force funding as match funding to lever in larger external grant funding to support significant regeneration in the town.

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.

A project officer group and management board has been established to ensure effective delivery. Following an open tender process a project manager that reports to the Economic Development Manager has been appointed.

Stubbylee Park

The Partner's Group has met for a further time to discuss any issues for users of the Park and share information on events and activities.

The Duck Pond project is due to start week commencing 14th August and is expected to last for a period of 8 weeks. This will make it a major attraction for people to come in and use the park.

Additional car parking spaces are due to be created near to the pump track in light of the increase in visitors to Stubbylee, mainly as a result of the Pump Track installed earlier this year.

The Stubbylee Masterplan group are now looking into funding sources for the next phase of the project which will be to improve the Dell which runs along the southern edge of the park.

Waterfoot Centre

Workings with local community groups and following extensive consultation, detailed plans were drawn up for improvements of the former playground area in the centre of Waterfoot. The Council has allocated £53,000 to the project which has now increased to £132k following successful funding applications (£48k from Viridor and £30k from Lancashire Environmental Fund).

The council has recently tendered for phase one of the project, the purchase of toddler playground equipment and appointed Sutcliffe Play Ltd to supply the equipment. A tender for the main contractor who will undertake the physical works on site is being prepared.

The project is planned to be completed in December 2017 ready for a Christmas themed launch.

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 – Completing final stages of work, contractor issues with 10 day extension due to poor weather. Scaffolding has now been removed from the REAL building, and work under way on St James Street.

Phase 3a – The five properties now going through sign up process – three properties so far have signed paperwork. Two are yet to engage, largely because both properties are for sale.

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 LCC Cabinet sign off.

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

Futures Park and Trail 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 costs for a centre and car park have been obtained in late 2016 and discussions are on-going 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. £10,000 from the employment and transport reserve budget has been allocated to the development of this vision. Quotations have been received and the best value contractor has been appointed to produce a revised masterplan. It is expected that the statistics from the masterplan will be used to produce an economic greenbook assessment which will be used to determine the impact on the local area. This may be used to apply for national funding to advance 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. Discussions 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.

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:

Improvements to the existing buildings and café area
Support towards the long term strategic development of the site

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. Progress has been made in developing a new drop on/off area at the front of the station.

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

The ELR Trust 10 year strategy is being produced at the moment and discussions are on-going to ensure that the railway meets the long term aspirations of the Council.

Arts development for Rossendale

Funding from the Arts Council has been secured for the third year running for the Stacksteads Lantern Parade in October. 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 submit a funding bid to the Arts Council to develop a Rossendale Cultural Framework and Arts Festival in 2018.

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 Council's '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.

5.3 Housing development

Brownfield register

The Government expects Brownfield Land Registers to provide up-to-date and consistent information on sites that local authorities consider to be appropriate for residential development having regard to the criteria set out in [regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning \(Brownfield Land Register\) Regulations 2017](#).

As members will recall these Regulations came into force earlier this year 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 31st December 2017. Guidance to support local planning authorities in preparing and publishing brownfield land registers has now just been published by DCLG (28th July 2017).

The Forward Planning team successfully produced a Pilot Brownfield Register last year, and

will be updating this in line with the Regulations and recently published guidance and the findings of the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) prior to 31st December 2017.

Self-Build and Custom House building Register

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. To date 11 individuals are registered.

New guidance has recently been issued by DCLG (28th July 2017), providing further clarification on the legislation.

Of particular note is the ability to introduce a local eligibility test, which may be based on residency, having a family member residing in the local area and / or having an employment connection to the local area. Financial solvency tests can also be required, which may include whether the applicant can afford to purchase land.

The Council has a 'duty to grant planning permission' which means authorities must give suitable development permission to enough suitable serviced plots of land to meet the demand for self-build and custom housebuilding in their area. The level of demand is established by reference to the number of entries added to an authority's register during a base period. The first base period begins on the day on which the register (which meets the requirement of the 2015 Act) is established and ends on 30 October 2016. At the end of each base period, relevant authorities have 3 years in which to permission an equivalent number of plots of land, which are suitable for self-build and custom housebuilding, as there are entries for that base period.

The emerging Local Plan, which is currently out for consultation, ending 9th October, contains a draft policy HS18 on **Self Build and Custom Built Houses**. In addition potential sites have been identified for self build in the emerging Local Plan (Policy HS2) and these are listed below:

- HS2.28- Booth Road/Woodland Mount, Brandwood
- HS2.34- Land Rear of Highfield Nursing Home
- HS2.48- Land south of 1293 Burnley Road, Loveclough
- HS2.57- Land at Conway Road
- HS2.59- Land to the north side of Hall Carr Road
- HS2.58- Land At Higher Cloughfold
- HS2.92- Field at Scout Road, Whitewell Bottom

Work is ongoing to identify other smaller sites that may be suitable, given the statutory requirements placed upon the Council, and being able to consider the recently published Government guidance.

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 owners 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, we have commissioned NP Law to start the CPO.

Went back into empty homes	2 managed by Calico 3 returned to owner Total 5
Sold and under renovation with new owner	2
Renovated and back into use.	3
Renovated and up for sale	2
Under renovation	7
CPO Stage	3
Voluntary Acquisition	2
Enforcing sale through Council Tax	1

Regenerating empty and dilapidated properties

On the 26th July 2017 a newly formed Enforcement Board Chaired by Sam Plum met to develop a co-ordinated approach to tackling empty and dilapidated properties and bringing them back into use. It was agreed these meetings will take place every 6 weeks.

A further meeting will be held on the 16th August 2017 to agree an assessment framework for prioritising empty properties and to ensure that the most serious and problematic cases receive the most urgent attention.

The empty properties web page is now up and running with an option to complete an empty properties reporting online form. Currently we have 32 properties that have been identified through complaints from members of the community. The newly appointed Housing and Regeneration Projects Officer is working on initial investigations to identify the owners, through Council Tax records, Land Registry searches and enquiries with owners.

Affordable Warmth

Rossendale Borough Council is working in partnership with St Vincent's Care and Repair team to offer funding that will help keep Rossendale homes 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; the following is a brief overview of how the money has been spent.

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
Total amount of funding (minus 10% management fee)	£29,979
Total costs of interventions	£34893.70
Total costs of contribution from Affordable Warmth	£26554.26
Total match funding generated	£8339.44

5.4 **Environmental Health**

Food inspections

It is important 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 be planned in advance). The final one was a no access visit to a new business as only open 22:00 onwards 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

5.5 **Emergency planning**

Flood Resilience Grants

The final date for applications was extended to 31st 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 now have received 556 applications and within this 27 are multiple applications. In total the amount of grant applied for equates to £2.5m.

Out of this total 379 have been completed. To date grants paid total £2.25 M

Another 23 properties waiting to be approved with further 127 approved and works being carried out on. The Project is expected to be fully completed by December 2017.

5.6 **Transport** National Cycle Way

There has been progress in a number of areas. The section of route between Rakehead Lane and the tunnels was tarmacked earlier in the year. Work has been completed in Helmshore to create a new zebra crossing across to the park at Snig Hole and resurfacing of the route down to the River Ogden. There has been a considerable amount of design and investigative work undertaken since the last report to Committee. Following previous consultation approval has been given to surface narrower sections of the route with a rubberised tarmac material. Work will commence at the start of September on a complete refurbishment of Britannia Greenway using this material. In October the sections from Blackwood Road to Rakehead Lane and Hareholme Viaduct will be paved with this material.

September/October is also expected to see work undertaken on stabilising the rockface between the two tunnels in the Glen.

Further design work continues to examine the options for the more difficult parts of the route, e.g. the area near Warth Mill in Waterfoot.

M66 Gateway

Four 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.

At the most recent meeting there was detailed discussion about the different options being considered for improvements Junction 18 of the M60 (Simister Island). Funding is available for design work but not currently for implementation. There was also discussion about problems faced by Transdev on the X43 with local congestion in Rawtenstall and Prestwich.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

Financial matters are noted within the report.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

All implications are covered within the body of the report.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

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

This report provides only an update overview of new and existing regeneration projects. It is

determined therefore that 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.

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

9. **CONCLUSION**

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