

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Marion Atkinson	Overview & Scrutiny Cabinet Member Regeneration & Skills	January 2018

REGENERATION

The Regeneration Team is playing an active role in delivering and programme managing the Authority's Growth Programme. Several initiatives are long-term activities and highlights include:

Town Centres

Action Plans have been prepared for Bootle, Crosby and Southport town centres. These Action Plans identify work streams/ activities to be progressed over the coming months and years. They are not Sefton MBC centric and relate to all potential stakeholders. The Authority's role is to stimulate, facilitate and enable the regeneration of each of the town centres with developers, other agencies and stakeholders providing the direct investment.

Across each of the town centres discussions are ongoing with potential investors and developers to bring viable development sites to fruition. Data is being collated and project ideas are being scoped out and options reviewed for each of the thematic areas. To support this a detailed programme of delivery has been developed. Specific activity being progressed in the Bootle, Crosby and Southport Action Plans are outlined below:

Bootle:

- We continue to actively engage with stakeholders and developers regarding opportunities for repurposing the Grade 2 listed building complex adjacent to the Town Hall. A developer site visit was undertaken in January 2018 and we have also met with Hugh Baird College to understand potential collaboration. This does not include the Bootle Town Hall building (included under Public Sector Reform, Asset Maximisation, PSR#8);
- A masterplan for the site is being developed by the internal project design team to support with an expression of interest for Heritage Lottery Funding application being submitted in March 2018;
- A consultation exercise was held in The Strand Shopping Centre in October and November 2017 and a report will be taken to the March Consultation and Engagement Panel with the results of the findings;
- A transport and connectivity study for Bootle town centre is being commissioned using the new transport framework, with the aim of

understanding the connectivity issues facing Bootle town centre including parking in the town centre and access in and around The Strand;

- At Coffee House Bridge, SAFE Regeneration's proposed redevelopment of the St. Mary's Complex and Carolina Basin in Bootle offers an opportunity to bring together direct purchase, private rented or affordable housing alongside extra care supported living and other shared facilities.

Crosby:

- The commissioned access and connectivity study for the village centre has now been received, reviewed and plans for implementation initiated including identification of a funding stream;
- The study identifies the potential for the Green car parking site to be released and options for development here are being considered.
- Regular dialogue continues with St Modwen's regarding their investment on either side of Moor Lane. Their works in this area are now complete and a photo call with Cllr. Atkinson was taken in February 2018;



Waterloo Town Hall:

- Donald Insall Associates have completed carrying out a condition and heritage assessment for the complex. This report will be issued, together with associated costings in late March 2018;

Southport:

- Major refurbishment of the Pier is underway, with the phased programme of works continuing until November 2018. Underdeck painting is continuing with good progress being made and structural repairs being carried out; The installation of the new retail kiosks on the pier is expected to take place from February 2018;
- Consultants Systra have been appointed to review eastern access to the town, the finding will inform future highway improvements;

- An access and connectivity study for the town centre is being commissioned using the new transport framework and initial engagement with the transport consultants has taken place;
- Planning Services submitted the Stage 1 Application entitled “Southport Townscape Heritage Project – Restoration and Regeneration” to the Heritage Lottery Fund in time for the 8 December 2017 deadline. A decision on the stage 1 application will be made by the Heritage Lottery Fund National Board in May 2018.

Southport Business Park:

- Appointment for a Market Demand and Development Strategy was made in January 2018 and receipt of the strategy report is targeted for the end of April 2018;
- The Site Investigation Report on the southern section of the Business Park has been reviewed favourably/ positively by the Councils’ Contaminated Land Officer. Officers met the Environment Agency (EA) in early February 2018 and a response is anticipated in late March 2018;

Funding Opportunities

The team are exploring opportunities for funding to support regeneration initiatives through:

- **Broadband – ‘gain share’**
The Regeneration Team is supporting delivery of the Merseyside Connected project in Sefton. Phase 1 of the project funded under UK Government’s Superfast Broadband and ERDF Programme provided top up funding without which upgrading of the broadband network would not have been financially viable. Phase 2 (gain share) commenced in June 2017 and will further upgrade the broadband network, running until late 2018. The gain share funding is provided via BT as take up of services from Phase 1 delivery has exceeded agreed thresholds. Despite a slow start (principally due to the work planning constraints within BT) construction work is now underway. All the planning work was programmed for completion by the end of 2017 which will allow the early delays to be caught up. Of the anticipated 110 cabinet upgrades across the LCR under the gain share element of the project, 4 have been completed with 423 premises connected against a total target of 3088.