

# Scrutiny Committee

8 March 2016

## Cabinet Member Update: Regeneration & Leisure



**Lead Member:** Councillor Phil Smith  
Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Leisure

## Cabinet Member Update: Regeneration & Leisure

### Cabinet Portfolio Responsibilities

- ▶ Community Engagement
- ▶ Economic Regeneration planning and implementation
- ▶ Business support
- ▶ Leisure and Cultural Services (excluding Parks)
- ▶ Environmental Health and Licensing

### Cabinet portfolio links to Corporate Plan 2015/2016

<b>Priorities:</b>	<b>Strong South Ribble in the heart of a prosperous Central Lancashire</b>	<b>Strong and Healthy Communities</b>
<b>Objectives:</b>	5. Work with partners to drive forward regeneration and improvement programmes	8. Promote stronger, confident and more active communities throughout the borough, through effective community involvement and development.
<b>Key Actions:</b>	8. Develop a range of town and village centre environmental schemes. 9. Work with neighbours to develop opportunities for economic regeneration.	16. Implement My Neighbourhood action plans. 19. Work with the South Ribble Community Leisure Trust to offer high quality, accessible sports and leisure activities.
<b>Measures of Success:</b>	6. Support the retail economy of Hough Lane: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 100% occupancy: Leyland Market</li> <li>▶ 90% occupancy: town centre retail units</li> </ul> 7. 4 town and village schemes started or planned. 8. 520 businesses assisted by the Council	14. 60% of residents satisfied with sports and leisure facilities 15. Delivery of a coaching programme to 1000 children in primary schools. 16. No premises will be less than 3 stars in the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

## Vision and Priorities of the Cabinet Member

- Helping to drive forward the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal.
- Promoting Inward Investment into the Borough.
- Jobs for all.

## Portfolio Achievements

**Key Action - Develop a range of town and village centre environmental improvements.**

**Measures of success - 4 towns and village schemes started and planned.**

Bamber Bridge Improvements - Major consultation has taken place on a £3,000,000 scheme for Bamber Bridge Centre secured through the City Deal. The scheme has been designed and major work will start in summer 2016. Preparation work has already started and the community and businesses are involved. This work will inform the future masterplans for Leyland, Penwortham, and Lostock Hall.



Regeneration of Longton – measures to improve the public realm and viability of the village seem to be working already. Businesses have invested in the area. The following improvements were completed:

- Installation of seating in the village centre
- New planting areas and planters
- Relocation and cleaning of the village stocks
- New pavement areas
- New shop forecourts to encourage local businesses to open out onto frontages. Several businesses have invested in their shops as a result.
- Cycle parking
- New signs and information boards
- Additional car parking spaces both on street and working with Booths to turn the supermarket car park into a 'community' car park.
- New canopies.



Penwortham Improvements (Phase 1) – a range of public realm improvements to the central shopping area of Penwortham have been delivered following local consultation. This was in part funded by City Deal and will contribute to improving the centre of Penwortham in the longer term. The following works were completed:

- New lighting which lights the main road and backlights the shopping/business frontages.
- Finger posts to highlight local areas/landmarks for pedestrians.
- Additional high quality seating. Penwortham has over 1000m of frontages. Seating was provided across the



scheme. The aim is to make the centre more pedestrian friendly especially supporting elderly and less-abled bodied.

- New planters & planting. Planting & new barriers especially round the Liverpool Road/Cop Lane lights. To soften the area and make it look more appealing planters and seating were placed around the area. This has not detracted from the safety measures, but keep safety foremost.
- Cycle parking.
- Local map/information signs were provided on new community noticeboards.



Leyland Improvements – Gateway features have been designed. These include tractor, lorry pop and iron horse. Submissions have been made to City Deal for funding.

Hutton improvements - Agreement on the scheme is being finalised with partners. This work covers improvements to the landscaping and car parking around the Village Hall.

### **Key Action - Work with neighbours to develop opportunities for economic development.**

#### **Measures of Success - 520 businesses assisted by the Council (2 year target)**

Business Growth and Business Start-up - The Council has provided support to 613 businesses in the 24 months from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. This support includes enquiries through the [businessinsouthribble.com](http://businessinsouthribble.com) based commercial property database, direct advice on commercial property, sources of business funding, start-up assistance and other business information.

Events – Major business events have been held which have attracted large numbers of local businesses, small and large. The themes of the events have been varied. They included businesses meeting the Leader and other Cabinet Members and questioning them on investment opportunities in South Ribble in the context of the City Deal. There has also been a Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair where real jobs were on offer for attendees.

Coastal communities – The Council was successful in gaining £130,000 Coastal Communities funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government. The Council has invested in the improvement of Longton centre, creating new jobs and training opportunities by establishing a job club, small business start-up advice and new incubation office space for starter businesses. The target is 80 businesses assisted together with the provision of a small grant scheme and business incubation (hot desk) space. The project will end October 2016.

Boost Programme - 124 South Ribble Businesses were supported through the Boost programme, funded through the European programme which concluded delivery in 2015. This created in South Ribble 47 new jobs and adding through a variety of interventions just over £2m in gross value added to the local economy.



**Measure of Success – Support the retail economy of Hough Lane (100% occupancy of Leyland Market) (90% occupancy of town centre retail units)**





Occupancy of Town Centre Retail Units, Leyland - 96% (Retail Position Statement November 2015).

Occupancy of Leyland Market - 100% (February 2016)

**Key Action - Implement My Neighbourhood action plans.**

The Council’s approach to community involvement, ‘My Neighbourhood’, focuses on action and outcomes for residents.

My Neighbourhood Plans are delivered on a continual basis across the borough, with a range of community projects running at any given time. Some of the highlights from the last year include:

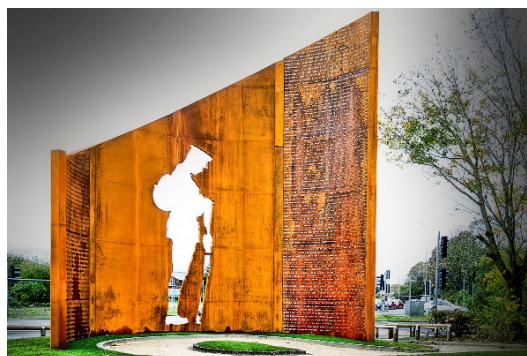
<p>Central</p>	<p>Inconsiderate parking has been an issue for a number of years on Tardy Gate; Central Forum has sought to tackle this with new planters &amp; bollards installed to limit the space available to cars, whilst smartening up the shopping area. Bicycle racks will be installed to encourage cycling over driving.</p>	
		<p>Excellent progress has been made on the scheme at St Catherine’s Park, including improvements to footpaths, new benches, creation of a car park for visitors &amp; planting of trees &amp; bluebells. Work will continue on this scheme throughout 2016.</p>
<p>Eastern</p>	<p>Members in Eastern area have pooled their collective local knowledge to review the positions of community noticeboards. New noticeboards have been installed in key locations around the area in order to support better information sharing.</p>	
		<p>With the support of Eastern Forum, a new Friends of Bamber Bridge Railway Station has been formed, with a number of platform enhancements already delivered.</p> <p>Strimming &amp; weeding had an immediate visual impact, with new planters installed to add colour &amp; interest. Working with BAXI, a sponsored welcome feature is currently in the planning.</p>

<p>Leyland</p>	<p>Christmas in Leyland was a joined up approach between the Town Team &amp; Leyland Forum – resulting in the biggest ever switch-on &amp; festive event. Despite adverse weather conditions at the event, local support for this was outstanding; there is potential to work with more businesses in the future to add to the lights &amp; create an even greater impact.</p>	
	<p>Construction of the new rugby club at Malt Kiln Fold (previously Moss Side Playing Fields) was completed in 2015, with keys handed over to Leyland Warriors Rugby Club in the Autumn. Work on the surrounding area &amp; car park is ongoing, including contributing to a partnership project for a bore hole to maintain water levels &amp; quality in the fishing ponds.</p>	
<p>Penwortham</p>	<p>Completion of the Greenbank Road Conservation Area improvement scheme; street name plates, lighting, car park works, signage, building plaques &amp; an information panel explaining the historical significance of the area. This supports a secondary project to create a history trail around Penwortham through 2016. Work with the volunteer committee to deliver another successful Penwortham Open Gardens event &amp; Penwortham's Second Autumn Show. Over 1500 visitors, volunteers &amp; local businesses were involved, with overall sponsorship from Booths.</p>	 
<p>Western Parishes</p>	<p>Longton Live was once again a very successful event, with positive feedback received from all participants. A cohesive event for all the community, Longton Live brings together churches, businesses, performers, volunteers &amp; local groups to showcase talent &amp; create a very special weekend. Western Parishes Forum is working with HAPI (Hoole Action Partnership Initiative) – a sub-committee of Much Hoole Parish Council – to bring about a new village hall in Much Hoole. Forum funds were used in pump priming; low level investment in the existing hall to increase usage, thus demonstrating to external funders the actual need / demand level for a quality community space in the village.</p>	

## **Borough War Memorial**

In addition to the above a major piece of work was Borough War Memorial.

Borough War Memorial – The borough war memorial and peace garden was unveiled on 11<sup>th</sup> November. This iconic memorial was constructed by South Ribble Borough Council as the first part of St. Catherine’s Park, over a 16 week period. Working with all My Neighbourhood forums, local groups and historians a picture of the loss suffered by the whole borough was painstakingly gathered together.



Over 670 lost their lives as a result of the First World War and they are commemorated for the first time in the Borough Memorial. Since its unveiling the steel structure and Peace Garden comprising trench wall, sensory planting and seating area has won considerable local praise.

**Key Action - Work with the South Ribble Community Leisure Trust to offer high quality, accessible sports and leisure activities.**

**Measure of success - 60% of residents satisfied with sports and leisure facilities**

Customer Satisfaction performance measured at the end of the year.

The Leisure offer continues to grow. Key successes include:

- New fitness suite upgrades at South Ribble Tennis and Fitness Centre and Penwortham Leisure Centre, with the new 3G Artificial Turf Pitches at the Tennis Centre nearing completion.
- The pilot 12 month GP Referral Program that was commissioned by the CCG has now concluded, it was anticipated that approximately 120 referrals would be made to Leyland Leisure Centre during the commissioning period, the program included not only Fitness and Swim sessions, but also Walking Football, Health Walks in Worden Park and Back Care classes. During the pilot program we had 219 participants, the outcomes of the scheme are currently being reviewed by the CCG with a view to developing further referral pathways.
- We currently have nearly 3,000 youngsters participating in weekly swimming lessons, a 10% increase from the last reporting period. A new continuous assessment system is currently being rolled out, which when fully operational (expected late Summer 2016) will allow parents to track their children’s progress online.
- Again on the Swimming front we have secured funding from Sport England to run targeted engagement sessions under the banner of ‘This Girl Can’, there are two initiatives: -

Ladies only Swimming Sessions – 18 – 40 years

Ladies only Swimming Sessions – targeting young mothers up to 25 Years.

- From a Tennis perspective, South Ribble Tennis and Fitness Centre remains in the top 3 facilities nationwide in terms of course uptake, with current participation being 454 youngsters, a very slight increase on the last reporting period. This bucks the trend nationally, which is in decline by over 5%.

### **Measure of Success - Delivery of a coaching programme to 1000 children in primary schools.**

Sports development - the Council's Sports Development team continue to deliver an exceptional service to schools across the Borough and alongside coaching programmes.

- In the summer of 2015, the Dance from the Heart project involved 38 schools and 6000 young people.
- In the autumn term 2015, 2760 young people were involved in the School Sport Premium Primary School Coaching Programme.
- This work is complemented by a range of other programmes including bikeability, scoot safe and tots on tyres.

### **Environmental Health**

- Achieved the Food Hygiene rating target set in the Corporate Plan. All premises less than three stars are now compliant with food safety law with enforcement action being taken against one premise in line with our policy.
- 67% of food businesses in the Food Hygiene Rating scheme achieving the maximum rating of 5 stars.
- Huntley's Country Stores were prosecuted and convicted following a substantial investigation by the Environmental Health Team. This followed an E-coli 0157 outbreak which hospitalised several children caused by inadequate safety precautions during a Lambing Live event. The company pleaded guilty and was fined £60,000 and £60,000 costs.
- The Council's Borough wide Air Quality Action Plan has now been finalised and published following a consultation period. Liaison is ongoing with partners to achieve the identified actions in the plan with a view to improving the air quality in South Ribble.
- The Environmental Health team have lead in the development of a Lancashire wide noise planning guidance document to assist developers when submitting planning applications.
- 26 enforcement notices with respect to public health nuisances have been served which range from filthy properties to accumulations of waste. A number have led to successful prosecutions.
- Advice and support to residents and businesses affected by the Cryptosporidium contaminated mains water supply over the summer.
- Supported the Council response to the out of hours flooding incidents during the Christmas holidays with staff and equipment deployed which prevented properties flooding.
- Continued monitoring of private water supplies providing advice and support to householders and businesses.



## Portfolio Areas for Development / Improvement

City Deal has brought a new programme of development. Starting with the regeneration of Bamber Bridge, the team must adapt to a new scale of works and investment whilst balancing the need to deliver works across the borough.

## Future Portfolio Challenges / Emerging Key Issues

A review of the My Neighbourhood Approach was carried out in Autumn / Winter 2015, with all Forum Chairs and Vice-Chairs engaged in identifying potential improvements.

Key aspects of this going forward include:

- Streamlining of projects to ensure timeliness, milestones and outcomes
- Increased member engagement through a revised role of 'Responsible Member'
- Member training on facilitating meetings and working with communities
- Use of project monitoring documents to offer greater transparency and accountability

With the City Deal programme of works and the My Neighbourhoods Capital projects there will be a need to manage projects closely to ensure deliverability.

## Recent Scrutiny Reviews Relevant to Portfolio

Date	Review Title	Easy web-address
-	-	-

None relevant to this portfolio.

## Key Portfolio Documents / Background Information

Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal.

My Neighbourhood Plans

Retail Position Statement November 2015.