Briefing Note.

Royton, Shaw and Crompton District Partnership Regeneration Activity

Date: 26 March 2013

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1. Purpose

1.1 To provide members of the District Partnership with brief details of the current range of regeneration activity taking place across the 4 constituent wards.

2. Regeneration Activity

**District Wide**

2.1 Metrolink

The Metrolink line opened from Manchester all the way through to Rochdale on 28th February 2013. The full journey time using the new route from Rochdale to Manchester City Centre is approximately an hour, whilst the journey time from Mumps to the City Centre is around 25 minutes.

MPT (the Metrolink contractors) are progressing on the works to take the Metrolink directly through Oldham Town Centre, down Union St. There will be three new stops in the town centre at King St, on Union St (outside Sainsbury’s) and at Mumps, where there will be a Park & Ride facility for over 250 cars. The town centre line is due to open in early 2014, when the existing old heavy rail route to the south of Oldham Way and Mumps Temporary Stop will be closed permanently.

In Shaw, TfGM are continuing their discussions with Asda about the possibility of a larger Park & Ride site on Asda’s land and are investigating how the car park might be designed and constructed.

**Royton North and South**

2.2 Royton Town Centre

Work is progressing to bring forward Phase 1 development. The private sector partners are continuing work to secure a food store operator to anchor scheme. An hybrid planning application (Outline planning for the whole scheme and a full application for Phase 1) was submitted in January 2013, and it is anticipated that a report will go to Planning Committee in April 2013.

2.3 Royton Town Centre Environmental Improvements

The town map boards have been installed at the Precinct car park, King Street car park, Park Street, and outside the Co-op. A community notice board and town map has also been installed outside the Town Hall and a key held by the District Co-ordinator to manage community notices. When the district centre is redeveloped, any affected signs will be relocated as part of the development.

Environmental Services are installing new litter bins and repairing and refurbishing the seating in the Precinct during April 2013. They are also looking into using Community Payback to carry out painting works to existing street furniture.

2.4 BSF - Oldham Academy North.

The new building for The Oldham Academy North was handed over by Willmott Dixon to the Council on 18 February 2013. The refurbished sports building and the external works including the re-aligned Public Right Of Way, will be handed over at the end of March prior to the Academy moving from the former Grange School site over the Easter holidays. The
Academy will re-open at its new site on 17 April 2013. The project has been delivered on time and on budget.

There was a handover ceremony held on 15 February where speeches were made by representatives from the Council, Willmott Dixon and E-ACT and this was reported in the Chronicle on 22 February 2013.

2.5 Clayton Playing Fields

This project provides 6 changing rooms and shower/w.c. facilities at Clayton Playing Fields. The modular buildings and security fence are on site, with the electrical service connections completed at the end of February 2013. The water connection is due to be made by the end of March 2013. Following this work, the buildings will be handed over to the Council and be ready for use. The scheme was funded by Section 106 developer contributions, Council Asset Management Budget and the District Investment Fund.

2.6 Royton Youth Centre – Kick pitch

Funding of £48,000 has been secured from the Government’s “Short Breaks” capital allocation for the creation of an accessible Multi Use Games Area adjoining the Royton Youth Centre. The project is particularly aimed at the groups of young people accessing the centre, who have additional needs.

The initial planning application was withdrawn on the advice of the planning department and resubmitted with changes to the fencing, lighting and noise dampening barriers. A consultation took place with Council Members and Oldham Council officers to discuss the future and viability and financing of the scheme. Council Members agreed to fully back the scheme and to continue with the planning application. Planning approval was subsequently granted on 08/02/13. The scheme has been out to tender and work is due to start week commencing 25/03/13, depending on lead times and will the scheme will be completed approximately w/e 26/04/13.

2.7 Leisure Centre development

Following the Council’s appointment of local firm Willmott Dixon, as its construction partner for the design and build of the Oldham and Royton Town Centre leisure centres, work has been completed on a feasibility study looking at the options and costs of the centres facility mix, and is now being followed by a business and affordability assessment on all the options.

The Council is undertaking a procurement process to appoint an operator to run its leisure operating contract from 1st April 2013 to operate the Council’s leisure estate including the current Royton and Crompton facilities. The Crompton Pool and Fitness Centre will remain open until the completion and opening of the new Royton Town Centre facility, which is anticipated in late 2014.

2.8 Royton Town Hall.

Some initial preliminary work has commenced to enable the proposals for the refurbishment of Royton Town Hall as a local neighbourhood centre to be brought forward.
2.11 Dunwood Park

Contract works.
Following completion of the works and the official opening the contractors have returned to undertake minor remedial works to rectify defects to the Community Building and Bowling Pavilion. This work has been completed.

The final account for the landscape contract is still in negotiation. The contractor is yet to return to undertake the identified defects.

Audience Development
The five-year activity and audience development plan (ADP) is ongoing until April 2105. Work is currently underway to produce a revised and updated ADP. The aim is to produce an achievable but ambitious plan which looks to improve the experience of existing users, and to increase use of the park by widening the range of users and activities. This work is being led by a partnership of the Friends of Dunwood Park, the Council and Pathways consultancy.

Effective partnership working between the Council, Friends of Dunwood Park, Shaw and Crompton Parish Council and Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale, has resulted in recent well attended community events including:

- The Family Fun in the Woods event on Sunday 14th October 2012
- Natural Christmas Decorations event on Sunday 9th December 2012
- Woodland Management and hot potatoes – Sunday 10th February 2013

A Nordic walking group now meets at Dunwood Park on the 2nd Sunday of every month, and an Easter Walk/rummage is being planned by Friends of Dunwood Park for this Easter Sunday.

2.12 Memorial Gardens, Westway

The scheme to relocate the Education Statue from St James’ Church to the Memorial Gardens has started. The statue has been removed and restored by a specialist contractor. The reinstatement works at St James Church are complete and a commemorative plaque installed.

The Education statue will be erected onto the new plinth built in Memorial Gardens in mid March. The resurfacing of the footpaths within the gardens has commenced and should be completed by the end of March. A photo opportunity has been scheduled for 4th April. The gardens will also be refurbished with new planting, painting of existing railings, benches and planters and an information plaque installed about the Education Statue.

2.13 JD Williams (Beal lane)

Via a Section 106 planning agreement, JD Williams paid to the Council £50,000 for improvements to Beal Lane between Eastway and the site, including refurbishment of footways, and remedial work to surrounding footways and carriageway on Beal lane, upgrade 2 bus stops and provision of direction signs to guide HGV to the site to avoid residential areas. The HGV signs have gone in and Unity Partnership have worked up the scheme to complete the improvements to Beal Lane. The scheme was planned to start in February 2013. However, due to extensive electrical cable laying work along the whole length of Crompton Way, the Traffic Section felt that it was not appropriate to allow the work to take place on Beal Lane, as this would lead to additional traffic congestion in the vicinity of the district centre. As such the implementation of the Beal Lane scheme will be
programmed in as soon as practical after the completion of the Crompton Way cabling works. The cabling works are likely to be ongoing until at least the end of March 2013.

2.14 Britannia Avenue, Shaw

The scheme for residents parking at Britannia Avenue is now in operation, with the aim of preventing any parking problems arising with the opening of Metrolink. It has been funded by the District Partnership. The scheme became operational on Monday 29th October. Following discussions with residents in November 2012, temporary permits have been issued to residents for visitor parking. A review meeting in March 2013 will evaluate the use of the temporary permits and determine the level of permits to be issued on a permanent basis. There have been no complaints to date, that the scheme is not working nor that residents want it changing or more permits are needed to cater for more visitors. The area has been monitored during the use of the temporary permits, and between 20th Dec and 15th March, 43 penalty charge notices have been issued. It therefore appears that the scheme is working as intended with little unauthorised parking taking place.

2.15 Shaw Market

The District Partnership has set up a working group to review the use and format of Shaw market and intends to carry out a consultation with local residents, shoppers and traders during April. Further reports will be brought to the District Partnership as this work develops.

3.0 Land Disposal Programme

3.1 The following Council owned sites within the District Partnership area are currently being actively marketed:
   - Greenbank/Northgate House, Royton The disposal now complete
   - Byron Street School - Previously marketed with some interest. However, this is still on hold as the site is being considered as part of the Leisure Review.
   - Land adjacent to No 323 Middleton Road – Recently marketed and a number of bids were received. Currently going through the legal process to complete the sale. Deadline of 15 March 2013 for substantive progress to be made with a view to completing the development agreement by 28 March 2013.
   - Former New Barn Junior School –Planning Committee “minded to approve” a planning application for 14 houses subject to completion of a s106 agreement. Instructions for completion of sale with Legal as the s106 needs to be completed at the same time as the development agreement as the purchaser has to have an interest in the land to do this
   - Rear of Blackshaw Lane. - A number of objections were received in response to recent advert to consider potential disposal of open space. A report being prepared to consider these

3.2 Bullcote Green Park.

The pavilion building has been vacated by the previous tenant “Pathways to Opportunities” who have moved to Bentley Street, Chadderton. The Council are working with Heyside Neighbourhood Council to progress them taking over responsibility for the building and running it as a community facility.
4.0 Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to note the report.