

Report to: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 15 May 2014

Lead Member: Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development

Report Author: Economic and Business Development Manager

Title: Rhyl Going Forward Programme Quarterly Report

1. What is the report about?

This report provides an update on the Rhyl Going Forward Programme.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To evaluate and monitor the Programme's progress and achievements in delivering its anticipated outcomes, and to identify any slippage with the programme's delivery.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That members note and comment on the progress made.

4. Report details.

The Programme Update reports which were submitted to the most recent meeting of the Rhyl Going Forward Programme Board are attached as Appendices 1a to 1d which demonstrate that in terms of the four workstreams of the programme:

- West Rhyl Regeneration Area has a current status of YELLOW (Appendix 1a)
- Town Centre has a current status of ORANGE (Appendix 1b)
- Seafront and Tourism has a current status of YELLOW (Appendix 1c)
- Live & Work in Rhyl has a current status of ORANGE (Appendix 1d)

The key points and more recent developments in relation to these workstreams are as follows.

West Rhyl

Following the Minister's decision to approve the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), ownership of the remaining properties required to deliver the Housing Improvement Project has been vested in the County Council and the relocation of the affected residents has now been completed. A Planning application for the Green Space to be provided in the area which has now been cleared of housing between Gronant Street and Aquarium Street was submitted. The Welsh Government is expected to begin marketing its development site on the corner of John Street and West Parade in the near future.

Town Centre

The Town & Area Plan for Rhyl was endorsed by Cabinet on 25th March. A decision was made to allocate funding from the relevant corporate priority budget towards environmental improvements in the town centre and the work is scheduled to take place later this year to coincide with the repairs to the carriageway in the southern section of the High Street. There are strongly held views about the benefits or otherwise of the street market and in order to determine how it can best make a positive contribution to the town centre offer, an independent review of the market has been commissioned and the results are expected later in this quarter. Although the application submitted to the Welsh Government last year for funding for future regeneration in Rhyl through the Vibrant & Viable Places framework was not selected to proceed to Stage 2 of the application process, the Minister for Housing & Regeneration announced on 10th April that a sum of £1m had been allocated to the area to support the implementation by 31st March 2017 of a capital project proposed in the original submission. Discussions about the process and the outcomes which projects would be expected to deliver are currently taking place with Government officials.

Seafront & Tourism

It was agreed at the Cabinet meeting which was held on 14th February that a 'preferred developer' approach would be adopted for the delivery of improved tourism and leisure facilities in Rhyl, including a new Aquatic Centre and to invite expressions of interest from developers for consideration by the Council. Discussions have been taking place about the outstanding details of the agreement with the developers of the new hotel proposed for the site of the former Honey Club and a Planning application from the developer will follow. It is still anticipated that the hotel should be completed and operating by the end of 2014. The construction of the new harbour side building has continued and is almost complete. A tenant has recently been selected for the commercial units in the building.

Live & Work in Rhyl

This has been the least developed of all the work streams and the development of a Town & Area Plan for Rhyl has enabled priority actions to be identified which will contribute to the achievement of the aims and objectives for this work stream. Work has recently commenced on the improvement of facilities for passengers at the railway station and funding has recently been approved for the construction of a replacement High School in the town.

Programme Review

Given the substantial progress made with a number of the key projects in the Rhyl Going Forward Delivery Plan, changes to the Welsh Government's funding arrangements for regeneration projects and the recent adoption of a Town & Area Plan for Rhyl, the Programme Board has agreed to review the programme at its next meeting to ensure that the projects for which it is responsible are those which will

make the greatest contribution towards the achievement of the objectives for the programme. The next meeting of the Board will take place later this month.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1: Priority 1 – Developing the Local Economy and Our Communities

The main thrust of the RGF Regeneration Strategy is to create more jobs and business opportunities in the area, thereby directly addressing this priority.

5.2: Priority 6 – Ensuring access to good quality housing

Specifically the WRHIP will directly impact on the priority outcome of “*offering a range of types and forms of housing...to meet the needs of individuals and families*”.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The overall regeneration programme does not have a dedicated budget. Funding is allocated to specific projects, in the main utilising external funding sources, and the funding is monitored on a project by project basis.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

The programme is monitored by the multi-agency Board which ensures there is a broad consensus of approach across key agencies in Rhyl to the approach. An annual report is being prepared to ensure there is a broader community awareness of the strategy. Individual projects have their own consultation strategy.

8. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Risks are monitored using the Programme Risk Register (Appendix 2).

9. Power to make the Decision

Article 6.3.4(b) of the Council’s Constitution.

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