

Report to: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 17 October 2013

Lead Member: Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development

Report Author: Economic and Business Development Manager

Title: Rhyl Going Forward – Rhyl Going Forward Update

1. What is the report about?

This report provides an update on the Rhyl Going Forward Regeneration Strategy.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide information regarding progress in terms implementing the Rhyl Going Forward (RGF) Regeneration Strategy.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Members note and comment on the progress made.

4. Report details.

The most recent Programme Update reports 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 RED (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)

West Rhyl

We are currently still awaiting the decision on the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), which despite being promised an early decision has still not materialised. At the moment the impact of this delayed decision is manageable within the agreed timescales for delivering the project, but further delay could start to cause problems.

The selection process for the appointment of the Design Team for the Green Space has completed, but with the final appointment potentially being delayed until we have confirmation of the CPO to avoid any potential abortive costs.

The next phase of demolition has commenced with the properties on the south side of Gronant Street already in our possession. These are being demolished to create the space for the new green space.

Town Centre

Denbighshire, working in partnership with Communities First, Rhyl City Strategy and Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC), submitted a bid under the Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places programme for £12 million funding to support the regeneration of the Town Centre. We have been informed that this bid has been unsuccessful, but we are continuing to work with our partners, local Members and the Town Council to develop the strategy for the Town Centre and seek alternative funding mechanisms as part of the wider process for developing the Town Plan for Rhyl.

The Town Centre Manager has resigned, and we are currently exploring options with the partners on the Town Centre Management Group to consider the way forward. A more focused role looking at promoting and finding tenants for empty properties is one of the options being considered.

On a positive note, the opening of the LEGO Innovation Centre took place on 20 September. The centre occupies the whole of the ground floor of the recently completed Bee and Station project.

Seafront & Tourism

Work continues on the development of the case for new leisure facilities along the coast. Much of the work currently is undertaking the soft market testing to ascertain the level of developer/investment interest in partnering the Council on the development of the new Aquatic Centre.

The Honey Club has been demolished and the Development Agreement with Chesham Estates was agreed by Cabinet on 30 July 2013. Designs for the new hotel are being developed and a planning application should be submitted by the end of this calendar year. If all goes well the hotel could be opened as early as autumn 2014.

Some commissioning work on the new bridge continues, and works to the harbour building and square are scheduled to complete early 2014.

Live & Work in Rhyl

Work on the new mountain biking track at Glan Morfa is nearing completion, and the design of the new school building at Rhyl High continues to be developed. Work on promoting Rhyl as a place to live and invest or work is being developed.

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 strategy 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 Programme Board which ensures there is a broad consensus of approach across key agencies in Rhyl to the approach. Further work is being undertaken on developing a stronger marketing and communication approach 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 by the Programme Board utilising ***Appendix 2 – Programme Risk Register***.

9. Power to make the Decision

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

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