

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

### 1. BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN FAIRTRADE BOROUGH STATUS

A Fairtrade Campaign for the Borough was approved at Regeneration and Environment SPT on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010. All members are asked to support this approach to Fairtrade and agree to support further work to achieve Fairtrade Borough status for Blackburn with Darwen.

### 2. THE WORK PROGRAMME

One of the key features of the Government's new programme is welfare reform, to make benefit payments more conditional on willingness to accept work. Overall major savings in public expenditure are expected from this and it is accompanied by a reduction in housing benefit. Given the high rate of worklessness and benefit dependency in the borough, there has to be concern about the impact of these changes on our residents.

### 3. WASTE PROCUREMENT

The process to select a company to provide waste treatment for the Borough continues. All three bidders being considered are proposing MBT (mechanical biological treatment) processes with various forms of energy recovery as an output.

### 4. BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN CORE STRATEGY

The Core Strategy hearing was held between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August. Work has now started on the preparation of the next LDF document - the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD which is scheduled to be adopted in January 2014.

### 5. MARKETS

The main fit-out contract should start on 4th October; costs are expected to be within budget. The opening date for the new market remains 5th March 2011. Significant work remains in finalising tenants' fit-out requirements, and promoting the existing Market as well as seeking further food traders for the new Market. Work is now underway to finalise the Development Brief for the present site to get an appropriate redevelopment.

### 6. FEILDEN STREET CAR PARK

The new car park will be helped by the new junction with Montague Street which, with traffic signals and extra lanes and due to open at the end of October, will allow Feilden Street will become one of the main entrance routes to the town centre. Negotiations are proceeding well in terms of contract spaces and a new daily rate for public parking.

### 7. FRECKLETON STREET LINK ROAD

The planning application for this, including the demolition of 53 King Street as a listed building, is due to be considered by Planning and Highways Committee in October. A public inquiry is expected, so construction is not likely to start until July 2012.

### 8. HIGHWAYS

Salt deliveries for the start of the winter service have now all been received, at the maximum capacity of the salt barn. Communication pages on social networking sites Facebook and Twitter have now been established.