

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION
COUNCILLOR PHIL RILEY PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR:
BRIAN BAILEY
DATE: 21 APRIL 2016**

CATHEDRAL QUARTER

Cathedral Court is now due for completion in April. Café Northcote, a new venture by the Michelin starred Northcote group announced that it would be taking a lease on the new cathedral refectory to provide a high quality offer as well as providing the catering for all Cathedral events. Café Northcote is planned to be open in good time for the Cathedral Flower Festival on 23 June 2016. This is a coup for the town and sets the bar for quality restaurant provision in the Cathedral Quarter.

PENNINE REACH

Work is now in the final phases of construction on all sites. Blackburn Bus Station is due to open on 1 May 2016. A media day was held on 23 March 2016 to publicise progress to date and the milestone of the bus station apron being ready for use.

FRECKLETON STREET

The new link road is now open to traffic and is working well. Final works on traffic islands, lights and signs and lines will continue for a few weeks. Work is ongoing to prepare roadside sights for interim car parking pending marketing and disposal of the sites for new employment use.

DARWEN 3-DAY MARKET

Following February's Executive Board report, one to one consultations have now been completed with 3-day market traders about moving into the main Market Hall and Annexe. More than half of the 17 traders are either keen to move or are considering the possibility, whilst a smaller number have indicated they are not willing to move or may stop trading. The results of these consultations are expected to be reported back to the Executive Board and at the same time setting out the strategy and timescales for relocation of traders and demolition. Wider consultation has already started in relation to the future of the 3-day site with a consultation meeting held at DACA on Monday 21 March 2016 with a number of local businesses (including market traders) and stakeholders. This was well attended and very successful in generating a number of ideas about the future use of the site.

BLACKBURN TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE

The Stage II Townscape Heritage Lottery application to the Heritage Lottery has been submitted after match funding was approved by Executive Board in February. Confirmation of the £3m project is expected from the Heritage Lottery Fund in June. The project includes proposals for full renovation of the

Blakey Moor terrace, improvement works to King George's Hall frontage and grant funded renovation works to heritage buildings within the Northgate and Lord Street West Area as well as new public realm in front of King George's Hall.

COMMUNITY CLOTHING

Community Clothing is a Blackburn based not for profit, social clothing initiative, developed by Patrick Grant, dedicated to making clothes, creating jobs and restoring pride in the UK textile working community. Phase I of the project began on Tuesday 18 February with the launch of a Kickstarter crowd funding campaign with a goal to raise £75,000, which has now been exceeded. This will provide the investment needed to buy in materials and produce the clothes. It will also secure development of Phase II of the project that will see the first Community Clothing retail outlet open in Blackburn town centre.

RAIL STATION INVESTMENT

Following on from the extension of the passing loop at Darwen last summer Darwen station has now benefitted from fencing repair and repainting and additional waiting shelters installed on each platform. Fencing has also been repaired and repainted at Entwistle station to improve the visual appearance of this gateway to southern end of our borough. The scope of works undertaken by Northern Rail on our behalf also include new shelters at each of the Ribble Valley stations, customer information screens and repaired and repainted fencing. Thanks to this funding passenger facilities for the Lancashire stations on this very popular rail route into Manchester have been greatly improved.

ACCESS FUND

In partnership with Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council a bid for £750,000 of revenue funding is being submitted to the Sustainable Travel Transition Year Revenue Competition 16/17 to deliver the Connecting Lancashire project. Through a targeted package of smarter transport measures, promotions and incentives Connecting Lancashire will build upon the experiences and strengths of previous LSTF funding (BwD Connect & Connecting East Lancashire) to support committed transport infrastructure projects across Lancashire. Working with key partners these measures will range from breaking down barriers through bike redistribution and cycle training, targeting settings such as workplaces, hospitals and schools as well as wider reach campaigns and challenges.

MARKETS REDEVELOPMENT SITE

A report has recently been submitted to the Council's Development Growth Board concerning the Markets development site. The Council is presently reviewing its development options for the site following a request from Northpoint, the Council's preferred development partner, to extend the period of developer exclusivity by a further 6 months to allow them to clearly establish demand and development viability.