

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION**

**COUNCILLOR PHIL RILEY**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR:**

**BRIAN BAILEY**

**DATE: 21 July 2016**

### **CATHEDRAL QUARTER**

Cathedral Court is now completed with the Clergy and staff at the Cathedral now in residence. The official opening took place on July 17<sup>th</sup> officiated by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu. Café Northcote at the Cathedral opened in the first week of June and is trading well with business really strong especially throughout the Flower Festival. The Cathedral Flower Festival and Countryside Comes to Town, which ran between June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, were each hugely successful with fantastic feedback from residents and visitors and extensive regional and national media coverage. In relation to the office accommodation, terms have been agreed with a business for part of the second floor and legals are progressing. There are some final remediation works underway mainly in the public realm which are expected to be finished by the end of August.

### **PENNINE REACH**

Furthergate works are due to complete in August. A funding bid has been submitted to the Lancashire LEP under the Growth Deal initiative to support development of adjoining employment sites.

### **FRECKLETON STREET LINK (WAINWRIGHT WAY)**

The official opening and naming of Wainwright Way is due to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> July in the presence of members of Alfred Wainwright's family. Marketing and disposal of adjacent employment sites is underway with keen interest from developers.

### **DARWEN 3-DAY MARKET**

Following the recent call-in which upheld the Executive Board decision to demolish the 3-day market building and redevelop the site, the Council is now progressing next steps. The Markets team has started the process to support 3-day market traders to apply for stalls in the main Market Hall and Annexe, and work will be starting soon on the adaptations needed to create the requisite space for displaced traders.

### **BLAKEY MOOR TOWNSCAPE PROJECT**

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have confirmed an award of £1.5 million to be matched by the Council for the delivery of the Blakey Moor Townscape Heritage project over the next 5 years. The project beat off stiff national competition to deliver planned improvement works to the Northgate Conservation area, King George's Hall and properties on Blakey Moor, Northgate and Lord Street West. Grants of up to 80% of cost will be available

for building conservation work. The Blakey Moor terrace is a priority project with plans to restore it to its former glory making it more suitable for restaurant use. Negotiations are underway with property owners and existing businesses to allow works to start as soon as possible. The project will also deliver an environmental enhancement scheme, a heritage skills training programme and a series of events to help raise the profile of the area's rich history and heritage.

### **COMMUNITY CLOTHING**

Community Clothing is a manufacturer's cooperative led by British Designer Patrick Grant. After successfully securing almost £100,000 through an on-line crowd funding campaign the project has now started manufacturing a number of clothing lines – British designed and British made at competitive prices. The Council has agreed a lease on 14 Lord Street West to facilitate the project's retail ambitions with the shop opening later this month. A full time manager has been appointed and is working closely with Bootstrap Enterprises who will be staffing the shop through their retail training programme. 14 Lord Street West is one of the heritage buildings earmarked for refurbishment as part of the Blakey Moor Townscape Heritage Project. This will bring the two upper floors back into use, providing a venue for a new Community Clothing textiles/sewing skills academy.

### **BLACKBURN MARKETS REDEVELOPMENT SITE**

Following a recent workshop with Capita, GL Hearn and Council Officers, work is underway to review progress and future options for use and development of the site. This will include consideration of short term uses for the site as well redevelopment options. Options will be presented to the Executive Board when they are sufficiently developed.

### **STREET LIGHTING**

All LED units have now been successfully installed in accordance with the approved invest to save programme. Early indications are that the Council is already making substantial energy savings but a full year post-installation assessment is required to obtain robust figures. A full evaluation of the Street Lighting Service has been done to establish the level of service required to carry out future maintenance on the new lanterns and columns.

### **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**

Network Recovery works are progressing with 20 schemes added to the 2016/17 works due to savings and efficiencies realised within the programme. This year is the final year of the programme and an evaluation is being prepared in line with Government guidelines that the Council self-assesses and scores its highways maintenance performance.