

Regeneration Update for the LSP Board 29th April 2019

Bohemia Area

Funding for a comprehensive feasibility study to identify the scale and location of the new leisure and cultural facilities in the Bohemia area was agreed at the council's cabinet in March, and the tender for this work is now live. The work is expected to be completed by September.

Funding has been secured from the 'One Public Estate' programme to conduct a feasibility study to assess the viability and cost of relocating the 'make ready' element of the ambulance station to a larger site in the area. SECAMB is also considering the provision of an operational base for ambulance crews between calls and on break at the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service fire station in Bohemia Road.

Community Partnership Funding (CPF) 2019-2021

The Community Partnership Fund applications for 2019-2021 assessed by the CPF panel in November 2018 were approved by Cabinet in February 2019. £371,341 has been allocated across the two years to six organisations covering the following priorities: support for victims of domestic violence; housing, legal, welfare and debt advice; advice and support to organisations; rough sleepers outreach support; advice and support to migrant and newly settled communities.

Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART)

Is the local grants programme which supports the social and economic development of the most deprived areas within Hastings and Bexhill. The first Call for Projects ran from June – August 2018; 23 stage 1 applications were received, and nine were chosen to progress. Of those nine, four will be assessed between May – July 2019 and contracted June – August to commence September 2019.

The second Call for projects went live on 20 March and will run until 20 June 2019. Stage 1 Expressions of Interest are being invited to apply for funding. A third Call for projects will run from 20 September 2019 to 20 December depending on available funds. <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/chart/>

DESTI-SMART

'Delivering Efficient Sustainable Tourism with low carbon transport Innovations: Sustainable Mobility, Accessibility and Responsible Travel (or 'DESTI-SMART'). An Interreg Europe project led by Thessaloniki in Greece, with partners in Italy, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Latvia, Hungary, Cyprus and the UK (Hastings Borough Council and Bournemouth University).

The objective of the programme is 'to improve the transport and tourism policies of EU destination regions, by integrating strategies for sustainable mobility, accessibility and responsible travel with sustainable tourism development.'

Through the programme the Council is exploring possible options for low carbon and sustainable transport along the seafront, to more effectively link The Stade in the Old Town and West St Leonards. For example, currently this journey is only possible by taking more than one bus. This project will enable us to consider pilot schemes, which if successful could be applied elsewhere.

Consultants are about to be appointed to carry out this work, fully funded by the EU. A local stakeholder group has been established.

Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)

The FLAG Programme funds have now all been allocated (£640k) and 19 projects have been agreed. All of the projects will be completed by December 2019. Projects included an new Ice Maker for the fish market; the development of Hastings Fish Brand; a health training programme (Fit to Fish), two single use plastic reduction programmes and a business strategy and skills analysis for the Fishing Fleet.

Future High Street Fund bid

An expression of interest was submitted March 2019 for funding to work up a bid of £25m grant to transform the town centre. Nine specific challenges were identified including housing, empty properties, investment and connectivity and a vision developed to grow the centre as the major economic engine of the town to include anchors of all year round entertainment and a heritage attraction. First stage decision expected summer 2019, with full bid submission spring 2020 if successful at the first stage.

Hastings Museum update

LEGO® Innovation Studio

HBC and Creative Hut have signed a three year Service Level Agreement for the museum to host a LEGO® Education Innovation Studio. LEGO® Education uses hands-on learning to actively involve pupils in their own learning process. It supports a range of curricular outcomes but is particularly focused on computing, science, technology, engineering and maths, but can also be used across other areas of the curriculum. The Innovation Studio will 'go-live' from September, but the launch event and testing will be happening from May. During the summer holiday there will be a free weekly LEGO® makers club for 10-16 year olds.

LGBTQ+ = Equals me. A hop, a skip and a jump

Is a youth led project examining East Sussex's LGBTQ heritage and is funded by the Heritage Lottery fund. Working in partnership with East Sussex County Council, De La Warr Pavilion, Towner Art Gallery and Charleston to work with young LGBTQ+ people as they explore the histories of LGBTQ+ communities in East Sussex over the past 100 years. The outcome will be an exhibition and events co-curated by the young people. The exhibition will tour schools across the county.

Local Growth Fund (LGF)

A successful application to SELEP's LGF round 3b will enable £0.5 million to go towards a £2.7m project to build 28 new units for small and start-up businesses on vacant land in Sidney Little Road, expected to generate up to 74 jobs. Design work is underway with construction scheduled for January 2020 and handover expected by March 2021

'Lower Tier' plans

The council is finalising the funding agreement with Homes England under the Local Authority Accelerated Construction programme to take forward the residential development of the Lower Tier site at the rear of Bexhill Road. The grant, which is up to £6.9m, is conditional on using an agreed level of modern methods of construction and achieving a higher rate of pace than a traditional housing scheme. The development will produce a range of outcomes, including circa 190 new homes, 40% affordable housing, employment and training opportunities, as well as improvements to sports/recreation facilities. The grant will be used to prepare the site and pay for any flood remediation measures necessary for development to take place. Early consultation with key stakeholders will take place once the grant agreement has been concluded.

The West Marina site

The West Marina site is owned by Hastings Borough Council and has been largely vacant for over 30 years, following the closure of the former lido. In line with the Local Development Framework the council is looking to see the site developed to provide a mixed use development (residential and commercial). The site is one of the few remaining significant re-development sites on the seafront. The Council is seeking a high quality innovative design with particular regard to sustainability.

At Cabinet on 4 March 2019 it was agreed to enter into a long lease (250 years) with County Gate/Sunley (the developers). The Council's Agents are in the process of finalising the Heads of Terms with the developers and once agreed our legal advisers will start drawing up the agreement.

Once a lease is in place the developers will commence with their detailed studies and surveys. We understand they will establish a website for the site/their proposals and will be responsible for carrying out consultation on the detail of the plans, a pre-application planning forum and other consultation sessions.