

**Decision Maker:** Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent                      Non-Executive                      Non-Key

**Title:** TOWN CENTRES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

**Contact Officer:** Kevin Munnely, Head of Renewal  
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**Chief Officer:** Marc Hume, Director, Regeneration and Transformation

**Ward:** All Wards

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**1. Reason for report**

1.1 To update Members of progress on delivering the Town Centres Development Programme.

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**2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**Members**

1. Note the progress on the delivery of the Town Centres Development Programme.
2. Agree that the Beckenham Town Centre Member Working Party is reconvened as a task and finish group to provide design oversight and strategic guidance during the initial scheme design stage.

### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Bromley Town Area Action Plan
  2. BBB Priority: Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres:
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: NA
  2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost:
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Renewal and Capital Programme
  4. Total current budget for this head: £133k and £3.257m
  5. Source of funding: Town Centre Development Fund, capital receipts and TfL funding
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### Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 5
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
- 

### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance:
  2. Call-in: Applicable:
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Borough-wide
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No:
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

### **3. COMMENTARY**

#### **Development Programme**

- 3.1 Attached as **Appendix 1** is an update on the progress that has been made in delivering each of the individual projects that make up the Development Programme. Members are asked to note the following key milestones that have been achieved since the last update report to the R&R PDS:
- 1 Westmoreland Road (Site L). Further to the news that the site had been acquired by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for a Free School, meetings have taken place with both the EFA to understand how and why the decision on the site purchase took place. In response to a consultation organised by Free Schools CfBT Trust on behalf of the proposed school operators, the Portfolio Holders for Renewal and Recreation and Education issued a joint response which is attached as **Appendix 2**.
  - The second phase of the Bromley North Village improvement works in East Street and the pedestrian areas of Market Square commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> January and are due to be completed by August 2014. The delayed Thames Water main replacement works in High Street North commenced on 13<sup>th</sup> January and the combined Thames Water and Public Realm improvements to High Street North are due for completion in May 2014.
  - The Old Town Halls (Site C). Contracts were exchanged with the Cathedral Group on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013 on the basis of their proposal to convert the Town Hall to a hotel, conference centre and associated restaurants. Cathedral aim to submit their planning application within 6 months and they aim to open the hotel and conference centre in the Spring of 2016.

#### **Beckenham**

- 3.2 It was reported at 18th September 2013 Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee that a revised Beckenham Town Centre Step 1 scheme bid had been submitted to Transport for London's Area Based Programme. The Council received notification on 16 December that the Initial Scheme Design bid had been successful and that TfL had allocated funding to complete the initial scheme design commencing in April 2014.
- 3.3 To provide design oversight and strategic guidance during the initial scheme design stage it is recommended that the Beckenham Town Centre Working Party is reconvened. This group will help to inform the direction of the scheme development as well as wider consultation and communication programme.
- 3.4 Ahead of TfL commencement timescale, Council Officers will be working on project mobilisation, including setting out project governance to ensure a high level of urban design. Officers will also continue discussion with key stakeholder such as South Eastern and Network Rail for design solutions for Beckenham Junction Station forecourt area. Progress on this project will be reported to future committees.

### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Work delivering the Town Centres Development Programme is entirely consistent with Policy Objectives set out in Building A Better Bromley 2011-2012 and the Renewal & Recreation Portfolio Business Plan 2013/14. The work of the Renewal team links to the Building a Better Bromley priorities by working towards the provision of Vibrant and Thriving Town Centres.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A sum of £233k was set aside by Members to fund the Town Centre Development Programme. To date £100K has been spent leaving a balance of £133K available to fund specialist advice for the remaining part of the process.
- 5.2 On 16 December 2013, TfL confirmed that the bid for Beckenham Town Centre had been approved and that £164k had been allocated for 2014/15 to fund the design work. TfL require specific 'gateways' to be met by the design work before the £2.181m balance of funding will be released. Full Council on 2 December 2013 agreed to add the Beckenham Town Centre Improvement Scheme, with a total estimated cost of £3.257m, to the capital programme.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Legal and Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	NA