

Decision Maker: RENEWAL AND RECREATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 22 November 2016

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

Title: BROMLEY NORTH VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS POST COMPLETION REPORT UPDATE

Contact Officer: Kevin Munnely, Head of Renewal
Tel: 020 8313 4582 E-mail: kevin.munnely@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Executive Director of Environment & Community Services

Ward: Bromley Town;

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 Public Realm improvements to Bromley North Village have been a key part of the improvement programme for Bromley Town Centre as set out in the Bromley Town Centre Area Action Plan. The improvement works to the original scheme area were substantially completed in November 2014. An initial evaluation of the scheme was completed in February 2015 as part of the Outer London Fund Programme.
- 1.2 This report provides Members with the results of a 2 year post-scheme evaluation which focuses on assessing the impact of the improvements on businesses and town users, particularly bus users.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 That Members note the results of the evaluation report and the outcomes of the delivered public realm improvements to Bromley North Village.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: NA
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable:
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment Safer Bromley Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal:: N/A as this is a post completion report
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Capital Programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: £6.652m
 5. Source of funding: TfL funding, Outer London Funding & LBB capital receipts
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Personnel

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

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Single Quote from RFQ under £5k
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Ward Councillor support the need for post scheme evaluation.

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The majority of the main Bromley North Village (BNV) improvement works were completed in November 2014 in accordance with the project timetable. With additional funding secured from Transport for London the scope of the improvement works were then extended to include Widmore Road. These works and a series of snagging works have now been completed. As part of the management of the Council's capital programme a post scheme evaluation of the capital works is required to be undertaken and the finding reported back to the appropriate PDS Committee.
- 3.2 An initial evaluation of the BNV improvement works was undertaken by Regeneris Consulting in February 2015, as part of the Outer London Fund post scheme evaluation (An Executive summary of this report is attached as Appendix 1). This evaluation found that the overall improvement scheme had directly improved the leisure offer in the BNV area, with there being an increase in the number of high profile lettings in the area and new residential investment in the town centre. The high quality and transformational nature of the improvements were also highlighted, particularly in East Street, where new outdoor seating had promoted a café culture. Footfall counts conducted before and after the scheme implementation in High Street North had indicated average increases of 67% in footfall for weekdays and 116% on weekends. There has also been a significant reduction in the level of vacancies in the area as compared to the levels prior to the interventions.
- 3.3 The 2015 evaluation report concluded that the improvements have contributed to the creation of greater town centre coherency and a stronger and more diverse offer that is changing the perceptions and image of the town centre and will make the town centre more competitive in the long term.
- 3.4 As part of a commitment to the Bromley Traders Association, the Council agreed to carry out a further limited 2 year post scheme evaluation of the improvement works. The focus for this evaluation is on assessing the impact of the scheme on: Businesses trading in the area with particular reference to turnover and parking/loading issues; and perceptions of town centre users, particularly the bus users. Staff from the Renewal team supported by Regeneris Consulting have undertaken the evaluation. The benefits of undertaking the two years post completion evaluation is that it allows the assessment of outputs that would not have been measurable during the initial evaluation exercise such as long term changes in footfall counts, changes in business turnover, new business investment in the area and longer
- 3.5 The current evaluation has used data analysis from LBB footfall data, vacancy rates and structured surveys with BNV businesses and town users to expand upon the February 2015 Regeneris Consulting report. The initial business and town user questionnaires were originally due to be undertaken in early October 2016. However, administrative difficulties in appointing the Consultant team created delays, which pushed back the completion of the questionnaires to early November 2016. The evaluation exercise is scheduled to be completed by mid-November and a verbal update of the report will be reported to Members at the Committee.
- 3.6 A series of improvements recommended as a result of the Stage 3 Safety Audit are in the process of being implemented. Enhanced cleaning options in the BNV area are now being considered by the Environmental Services Department as part of a larger town wide assessment of cleaning options. It is anticipated that the results of this assessment will be reported to the appropriate PDS Committee and Executive in the New Year.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Work delivering the Town Centres Draft Development Programme is entirely consistent with Policy Objectives set out in Building A Better Bromley 2015 and Renewal & Recreation Portfolio

Plan 2015/16. The work of the Renewal Group links to Building a Better Bromley priorities by working towards the provision of Vibrant and Thriving Town Centres.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report provides information on the post completion review of the Bromley North Village capital scheme.

5.2 The table below summarises the current financial position of the capital schemes: -

Expenditure	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Bromley North Village (A)</u>			
Capital works	5,048	5,003	-45
Design Fees	398	406	8
Project management	100	80	-20
	5,546	5,489	-57
<u>Bromley North Village (B)</u>	1,106	1,106	0
Net underspend	6,652	6,595	-57
Funding			
<u>Bromley North Village (A)</u>			
TfL	3,298		
LBB capital receipts	1,500		
Outer London Funding	748		
	5,546		
<u>Bromley North Village (B)</u>			
Outer London Funding	1,081		
Private Sector	25		
	1,106		
Total Funding	6,652		

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None for the purpose of this report NA

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None for the purpose of this report

8. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Council has appointed Regeneris Consulting Ltd on the basis of a single quote through a Request for Quotes in accordance with Contract Procedures Regulations 1 and 2.

Non-Applicable Sections:	PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS, LEGAL IMPLICATIONS
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Regeneris Consulting OLF Round Two Evaluation Report