

Decision Maker: RENEWAL RECREATION AND HOUSING PDS COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 15 November 2023

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

Title: REGENERATION STRATEGY 2020 – 2030 UPDATE REPORT

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Chief Officer: Director of Housing, Planning, Property and Regeneration

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for decision/report and options

1.1. This report provides Members with an update on the Regeneration Strategy 2020 - 2030.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 The Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee is asked to note the update.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Vulnerable Adults and Children will be supported through the delivery of regenerated community facilities.
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Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: N/A
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
 - (1) For children and young people to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
 - (2) For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
 - (3) For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper.
 - (4) For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
 - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: The Regeneration Strategy itself does not have an associated cost, however delivery of the Regeneration Strategy requires capital investment over the long term.
 2. Ongoing costs: Ongoing costs are dependent on individual schemes that are delivered by the Strategy.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
 4. Total current budget for this head: N/A
 5. Source of funding: Sources of funding are dependent on individual schemes that are delivered by the Strategy.
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Personnel

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

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory Government Guidance
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: No Executive decision.
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: The Corporate Procurement Team will be consulted on the specifics of any procurement arising.
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Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: N/A
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Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: The Regeneration Strategy prioritises carbon reduction wherever possible, particularly through Affordable Housing Schemes. Social value is generated through the provision of regenerated community facilities.
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Impact on the Local Economy

1. Summary of Local Economy Implications: The Regeneration strategy works to support local businesses through modernisation of the borough and town centre improvements.
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Impact on Health and Wellbeing

1. Summary of Health and Wellbeing Implications: The Health and wellbeing of residents is improved through the provision of high quality community and leisure facilities.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (*current and projected*): All residents.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1. The Regeneration Strategy was adopted in September 2020 (report no: HPR2020/020), to guide investment and interventions in the borough over the next ten years, providing confidence to grant funders, businesses, and developers by setting out priority areas and strategic commitments across the borough. The strategy was developed with the overarching vision *‘to regenerate the borough of Bromley, building on its heritage, so that it continues to represent the best of town and country’*.
- 3.2. The five priority areas of the Regeneration Strategy are set out below, followed by progress updates on the Council-led projects under the umbrella of the Regeneration Strategy.

3.3. Nurturing our Green Spaces

3.3.1. Improve children's park play facilities to promote the health, learning, and happiness of Bromley's young residents.

- Sports provision in parks in the borough is being enhanced as a result of external investment, such as through the LTA Parks Investment Programme and Cricket Project (detailed in 3.4.3).
- As part of the Council's Affordable Housing Developments (detailed in 3.5.2), play spaces are to be delivered within the housing schemes, including in the Bromley North, York Rise and West Wickham developments.
- As part of the delivery of the Crystal Palace Park Regeneration Plan (detailed in 3.3.3), three new play areas will be delivered within the Tidal Lakes Cricket Ground and English Landscape Area within Crystal Palace Park.

3.3.2. Bring disused park buildings back to life to provide opportunities for growth in the local economy, combat anti-social behaviour, and enhance local amenity.

- The Parks Department, supported by Economic Development, have commissioned a study to look at how the current composition, condition and facilities within selected open spaces can help to facilitate growth in local economies and town centres. The primary aim of this project is to understand what physical interventions could increase the economic, social and environmental benefits of selected green spaces in the borough, in particular, to maximise the benefits of assets within those parks for supporting inclusive growth in local economies. Five parks have been selected for this study with consultation with key stakeholders underway. The report provided a shortlist of recommended interventions to be delivered by the Council over a 3 year programme.
- The Crystal Palace Park Concert Platform has now been transferred to the Crystal Palace Park Trust on a full repair and insurance lease. The platform stage was replaced in 2022, and the Concert Bowl is now in daily use, with a café concession and a seating area on the platform. The space has been utilised for large scale events and filming such as ‘Antiques Road Show’. Electrics are due to be installed on the stage in the near future.

3.3.3. Bring forward the Regeneration Plan for Crystal Palace Park, a site of international historical significance.

- The Crystal Palace Park Regeneration is underway. A multi-disciplinary team, led by HTA Design, was appointed in June 2023 and has developed costed RIBA Stage 2

designs. The current phase of works focuses on the Geological Court (including the Dinosaurs and Geological Illustrations) and the Italian Terraces.

- A team of consultants have also been procured to deliver development works funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund after a £5m grant was earmarked for the scheme. These consultants are working across evaluation, fundraising, interpretation, activity, and business planning, as well as conservation management. The development phase will conclude with the submission of the Round 2 application to the NLHF in May 2024.
- Outline Planning Permission was achieved in 2021. The multi-disciplinary team submitted pre-reserved matters applications in October 2023. The reserved matters applications for the first phase of works will be submitted in late January 2024.
- The restoration of the Grade II* listed Crystal Palace Subway is due to complete at the end of November 2023. The building will be included in the main lease to the Crystal Palace Park Trust for community use and income generation.
- The 125 year lease to the Trust was executed in September 2023. The Trust is now managing and maintaining the park under their ownership.

3.3.4. Conserve Scadbury Park Nature Reserve and its natural environment, ensuring the ancient monument within the park and its associated historical features are protected.

- The grant funded moated manor emergency works, which focused on the most vulnerable brickwork, were completed in March 2022.
- A draft masterplan was provided by Purcell Architecture (the Council's conservation consultant on the project) and officers are now looking to work this into a larger commissioned plan for the whole site, to sit alongside a grant funding plan that will phase works according to their priority. Officers are also scoping out possibilities for further funding for the moated manor following a meeting with Historic England.

3.4. Activating High Quality Leisure and Cultural Provision

3.4.1. Enhance the library service ensuring it is fit for the 21st Century and responds to our changing lives and communities, for example the impact of digital advancements.

- The refurbishment of St Paul's Cray Library and Community Centre was completed in August 2023, celebrated with a successful launch event. This work included in the relocation of the Community Support Centre in St Pauls Cray into the Library, which has been a significant success for residents.
- The West Wickham library project is currently in the construction phase. A temporary library for the area is operating out of Coney Hall. Works have progressed currently including, the demolition of the former toilet block, the roof stripped back, and all internal walls and ceilings have been removed in addition to commencement of internal drainage works and pad foundations for the new steels.
- As part of the Operational Property a budget has been agreed of £10.77m (plus £246k from the external consultancy costs budget, bringing the total budget to £11.016m) to repair 11 of the borough's 14 libraries. These are: Beckenham, Burnt Ash, Chislehurst, Hayes, Mottingham, Orpington, Penge, Petts Wood, Shortlands, Southborough, and St Paul's Cray.

- Bromley Council invested £515k into an ICT Refresh for which GLL acted as the project manager with collaboration with the Client. The project saw the purchase of a complete refresh of new public PCs and self-service kiosks, public tablets (Hublets) at 4 new libraries, Chromebooks to support Lego STEM learning activities, spare staff equipment, and renewing existing software. In addition, a new cloud printing service, updates to the Library App to allow self-service within library premises and upgraded fibre internet lines will be introduced to users later in the year pending staff training, marketing, and external infrastructure works.
- As part of the Night Time Enterprise Zone (detailed in 3.6.3), the Council, in partnership with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL), hosted the Library Lates Event in April 2023. The first BR1 Lates event was a hugely popular night of special entertainment that saw huge crowds dancing and having fun in Bromley Central Library this April, with almost 3000 visitors in total. The Library Lates saw live music, dancing, cocktail making, and book reading from special guests Kate Lawler and Sandra Agard. The silent disco drew a large crowd of all ages and a particular highlight saw the enthralling Spark Drummers bring colour, rhythm and flair to the town centre.
- Start up Bromley was introduced to Bromley to provide business support for aspiring and early stage entrepreneurs. Members have access to business lounges across Bromley Libraries, free workshops, events and walk-in consultations.
- Through effective partnership working and relationship building, LBB gained funding from Sport England to install an OBIE projection system in Mottingham Library. An OBIE is a projector which projects onto the floor (or a table for older participants) with interactive games whereby users use their bodies to play (e.g. using their feet to get as many ghosts as possible). As well as helping people engage in exercise without realising it, the system has added benefits for individuals with autism, Alzheimer's and dementia. A rare example of accessing sport funding being brought into a cultural space and the marriage of physical activity and tech, such was the success of the project, it precipitated an entirely new funding stream called "The Together Fund" and was highlighted as an example of good practice at London Sport's awards in 2022. Under the Together Fund, the project was then replicated in Penge Library also.

3.4.2. Develop Bromley Town's contemporary cultural centre in the vicinity of the Churchill Theatre and Central Library.

- To support the development of a cultural centre within Bromley High Street, a lighting project is underway to display projections on the façade of the Churchill Theatre. This presents a unique opportunity to enhance the High Street; the innovative lighting programme will support a range of events, including those organised by the 'Your Bromley BID'. The project looks to celebrate heritage and culture within Bromley to enhance the experiences within the town centre and enable high street programming.
- In addition to the event programme, the Night Time Enterprise Zone (detailed in 3.6.3) has also provided town centre improvements. These include lighting upgrades – the uplighting of the Bromley North letters opposite Bromley North Station, additional lighting outside the Churchill Theatre and projecting images on to the façade of the Churchill Theatre. This additional lighting will provide a more welcoming town centre. Additional electricity has also been installed to support

further events and markets in the town centre. A business toolkit has been produced providing advice and guidance to venues that are considering opening later and a campaign called Good Work Bromley has been launched to promote good work standards.

- As part of the Night Time Enterprise Zone (detailed in 3.6.3), the Council in partnership with Your Bromley hosted a Winter Lights Spectacular on 25th October 2023. The event included interactive light installations, glow in the dark facepainting, walkabout performers, light tunnels, live music, LED games, street food and cocktail masterclasses. The event saw a 71.2% increase in footfall with 25,430 more people in the town centre as compared to the previous Wednesday.
- As part of the Sport and Wellbeing Festival on the 25th July (detailed in 3.4.3), the Umbrella Project was also launched. The Umbrella Project was a display of umbrellas in the pedestrian area of Bromley over the summer that promoted neurodiversity. Funding was secured through local sponsorship and this display, in partnership with the ADHD Foundation, brought great colour and attraction to Bromley High Street over the summer.
- In June each year, Your Bromley BID works with 30 primary schools in Bromley who take part in Floral Fest. Each participating school provides a beautifully decorated planter for display on Bromley High Street. Each year has a different theme ranging from representing their school's values to the Platinum Jubilee. The planters are on display for a week before winners in various categories are awarded by a special guest judge.
- In June 2022, a wide range of Platinum Jubilee activity and celebration took place across the borough which thousands of residents embraced and enjoyed. There were three days of activity and entertainment in Queens Gardens including a large screen and performance stage. Crystal Palace Park hosted the Lighting of the Beacon ceremony with huge crowds and there was many fantastically decorated shops and businesses proposed for the Best Decorated Shop award.
- To celebrate King Charles III Coronation in May 2023, Queens Gardens once again hosted a large screen to offer residents the opportunity to enjoy this momentous occasion together. Alongside the screen showing the Coronation ceremony, was a wide range of children's activities including facepainting, creative workshops, 'royal' characters and even a selfie throne for them to feel like a King or Queen for the day!
- Covid cultural programming grants were developed as part on the COVID Additional Restrictions Grant, a discretionary scheme that allowed Local Authorities to administer grants to areas of local financial need. 30 cultural organisations were given grants to put events on in Bromley's high streets to encourage footfall. The 'Inspire Bromley' group (detailed in 3.7.1) was created from this grant, who have helped to shape some of the cultural offerings in the Borough going forward.
- Children's Art Week encourages families, children and young people and schools to take part in fun, creative activities that they might not have tried before. In Summer 2020, Bromley libraries took part in Children's Art week and hosted workshops in libraries across the Borough with themes of the Natural World, Connecting Across the Generations, and Literature and Creative Writing.
- In October 2021 Bromley libraries took part in The Big Draw Festival, a worldwide celebration of drawing, hosting four workshops with the children's author and

illustrator, Emily Fella. 100 children took part in the workshops creating comic characters for the Big Draw Festival's theme 'Make the Change'.

- Bromley libraries continue to host weekly arts and crafts sessions in all libraries across the Borough.

3.4.3. Promote the wellbeing of residents, and facilitation of the Council's wellbeing strategy through improved leisure facilities.

- Sports provision in parks in the borough is being enhanced as a result of external investment, such as through the LTA Parks Investment Programme. In November 2022 and June 2023, the Executive approved acceptance of a grant (£230,580) from the LTA to fund the renovation of 10 tennis courts across four parks within the borough: Coney Hall Recreation Ground, Church House Garden, Goddington Recreation Ground and Poverest Park.
- To encourage participation in cricket, the Council is also part of a London-wide programme funded by the London Cricket Trust. Non-turf cricket pitches are to be installed in parks in partnerships with Local Authorities and County Cricket Clubs across London. Bromley plans to install two non-turf pitches, at Goddington Park and Poverest Park.
- The works to the community cycle track at Hoblingwell Recreation Ground are complete and the new facility was open to the public by the Mayor of Bromley in June 2022. An activation programme has been run in collaboration with Access Sport (the Council's partner on the project) to establish a community club at the site and interested members of the local community have been trained in a qualification to allow them to run their own sessions.
- As part of the Night Time Enterprise Zone (detailed in 3.6.3), the Council, in partnership with ProActive Bromley, hosted the Sport and Wellbeing Festival on Tuesday 25th July 2023. The event, which attracted over 3,500 people, was packed full of sporting entertainment promoting active and healthy lifestyles whilst showcasing Bromley as a vibrant and exciting evening destination. The festival offered a 7.5m climbing wall, F1 car simulator, performance stage, various local sports clubs offering taster sessions, Wellbeing zones, street food vans and bar, a silent disco, live music, sports photography exhibition and much more.
- From Monday 25th July to Friday 29th July 2022 the London Borough of Bromley organised a special Access to Sport week for disadvantaged young people, namely Children Looked After. This week of activities was part of the borough's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and focussed on providing opportunities for young people during the school holiday period to have fun, try new activities and learn in a safe and nourishing environment.
- In support of Bromley's emerging Sport & Physical Activity Strategy, the Council recently ran two sport forum events in one day at Bromley FC. With an afternoon session for stakeholders including Sport England, London Sport, LBB, MyTime, Bromley Well and others, and a further session for clubs and the voluntary sector in the evening. The event was a resounding success, with nearly 80 attendees across both sessions, positive interaction, a clear way forward identified in many cases and positive feedback about the event across the board. All findings from the event helped to positively inform and shape our upcoming Sport & Physical Activity Strategy for Bromley.

3.4.4. Enable the development of the Walnuts site in Orpington and West Wickham and ensure the inclusion of high quality community facilities.

- An indicative budget of £27.1m (alongside a £500k allocation for feasibility works) was allocated from the Operational Property Review to redevelop both the Walnuts and West Wickham Leisure Centres to modern standards and enhance the leisure facilities available to residents within the borough. Developed design work is now underway and the schemes are expected to start on site by the end of next year.

3.5. Supporting New and Existing Communities

3.5.1. Renew community facilities and explore business case-led opportunities to improve facilities by bringing them together.

- Changing Places toilets are essential for residents with complex and multiple disabilities whose needs are not met by a standard accessible toilet. With only two registered Changing Places facilities in the borough prior to the project, residents, their families, assistants, and carers were being excluded from some local spaces. Officers have secured £405k of grant funding for 6 new facilities. One facility has already been installed in March 2023, at the Princess Royal University Hospital in Farnborough, with a further five to be installed prior to March 2024 in Crystal Palace Park, High Elms Country Park, Pavilion Leisure Centre and The Warren.

3.5.2. Take forward small housing sites and deliver more homes for Bromley that respond to market need.

- It was agreed via the Portfolio Plan, that given Council pressures on housing and communities, that the strand relating to Housing would be prioritised.
- The Phase 1 affordable housing developments at Anerley, Chris Whitty Place and Kevin Fenton Mews are complete and fully occupied. The York Rise housing development is in the construction phase.
- The West Wickham housing development to the rear of the library redevelopment is under construction and due to complete in August 2024.
- The proposal for Bromley North, a Phase 2 site, was granted planning consent in October 2023. The Council was successful in securing funding of £720k from the Brownfield Land Release Fund to help to finance the scheme. In September 2023 the Executive resolved to add the site to the Capital Programme, subject to planning consent being achieved (Report no. HPR2023/051).
- In September 2023 the Executive resolved to add the Beckenham site to the Capital Programme. Regeneration Officers are now preparing to undertake public consultation before finalising the scheme for planning submission in early 2024.
- Regeneration Officers are progressing feasibility proposals for the Bellegrave, Manorfields and Poverest housing sites.

3.5.3. Ensure that the places our residents live in are vibrant and that vacant shops and disused buildings are minimised.

- The Council is seeking further proposals for the Local Parades Improvement Initiative to ensure that the whole budget is utilised, commencing January 2024 where

£50,000 will be allocated to specific projects to improve parades across the borough, with five parades to be selected from applications to each receive £10,000 for specific improvements.

- As part of the COVID Additional Restrictions Grant, a discretionary scheme that allowed Local Authorities to administer grants to areas of local financial need, 22 businesses were given vacant unit grants to fill premises that were vacant on Bromley's high streets. The Council are still in touch with many of the vacant unit recipients, leveraging their expertise of the high street to help inform decisions.

3.5.4. Lobby for and support the implementation of improved transport infrastructure.

- Priority 5 within the Environment and Community Service Portfolio Plan for 2023/24 states:

'Rising numbers of cars as the number of residents and households increases leads to congestion, parking issues and a reduction in air quality. Lack of connectivity and investment in transport prevents access to opportunities and services. We will seek to address these issues by promoting sustainable, safe and active travel, improving our road network, lobbying for improved public transport and managing on and off-street parking to balance the needs of motorists, residents and businesses.'

- Actions for 2023/24 include:
 - Implement new walking schemes
 - Reduce delays for vehicles and improve bus users' journeys
 - Implement road safety measures
 - Implement sustainable travel plans
 - Increase the availability of Electric Vehicle Charging Points
 - Develop a borough wide anti-idling campaign
 - Provide good quality parking on and off street
- The Council are giving Bromley's residents the best options to travel as suits their requirements and that includes to be able to travel as safely and conveniently as possible by foot, bike or car. Bromley has an active School Travel Plans team and has invested in a dozen new zebra crossings in recent years with more in the pipeline, plus other improved crossing facilities. Most recent schemes include:
 - Kent house Road Zebra Crossing
 - Homesdale Road Zebra Crossing
 - Lennard Road Parallel Zebra Crossing
 - Kings Hall Road Parallel Zebra Crossing
 - Court Road Pedestrian Crossing Improvements (Refuges)
 - Station Road Shortlands Zebra Crossing
 - Crystal Palace Park Road Toucan Crossing
 - Addison Road Footway Widening
 - Old Hill Chislehurst Informal Crossing (Refuge)
 - Crofton Road Zebra Crossings x5
 - Bromley Road Shortlands Zebra Crossings x2

3.6. Strengthening our Town Centres and Local Economy

3.6.1. Modernise Bromley's digital infrastructure.

- Bromley's Digital Infrastructure Work Plan (DWP) provides the strategic map to improve Digital Connectivity for the benefit of Bromley residents and businesses. It includes interventions to support the roll-out of gigabit capable connectivity; notably through facilitating the development of full-fibre to the premises broadband (FTTP), along with 4G and 5G mobile networks. The majority of the 5 local exchanges announced by Openreach in their 'Fibre First' commercial roll-out (i.e. Farnborough, Orpington, Biggin Hill, Chislehurst and Hayes Common) have now been upgraded to full-fibre. This has been expedited in Bromley, via the Council's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Openreach, established from 2021. Publicly available data on the ThinkBroadband website, highlights the increase in full-fibre broadband coverage across the borough from only 1% in May 2020 (prior to the MOU and Openreach rollout) to over 46% in November 2023.
- Over 27 new 4G/5G mobile small cells have been deployed so far by Freshwave (who is one of the four local digital infrastructure providers that have an open access agreement with Bromley Council). These are situated at key high street locations within 4 local town centres (i.e Bromley Town Centre, Penge, Orpington and Beckenham). This arrangement has served to increase the coverage and capacity across town centres for mobile network operators (MNOs) such as Virgin Media/O2. It has also provided an additional income stream for the Council from the annual revenue due from the rental of spare capacity on lamp columns (over £23,400 in income has been generated from Freshwave so far). The data on 5G mobile network coverage reported on Bromley by OfCom, commenced in January 2023 and shows 5G mobile network coverage by all mobile network operators (MNOs) at 22.7% of premises (5G mobile network coverage of premises by at least 1 MNO is at 97.2%). Nationally, the figures are lower than this; with 5G mobile network coverage of premises by all MNOs at approximately 17% (5G mobile network coverage of premises by at least 1 MNO is at 78%).
- As detailed in 3.6.3, approval was granted by the RRH Executive Committee on 5th July 2023, to progress with the use of up to £1m of Strategic Infrastructure Fund (SIF)/Works Funded by Grant (WFbG), in order to deploy new dark fibre using the communications infrastructure provider procured by GLA, via the TfL framework.
- Using SIF/WFbG funds funding, the Council is implementing plans to deploy dark fibre infrastructure across the borough; anchored at key/strategic sites. Over 21 sites have been identified across the borough (which primarily include 14 libraries, 4 CCTV sites and a waste re-cycling depot). The new dark-fibre infrastructure can be offered to over 350 local public sector sites. Additional inward investment from the provider provides extra capacity for commercial use to support up to 4,000 local businesses and residents.

3.6.2. Create new Planning guidance for Bromley Town.

- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide further guidance on policies in the Development Plan. The Council has already adopted the following SPDs: Affordable housing, Planning Obligations, Orpington Town Centre, Bromley Town Centre and Urban Design Guide.

fDevelop new town and local centre improvement programmes that attract grant funding and enable all our towns to flourish.

- Bromley Town Centre has been selected as one of London's three new Night Time Enterprise Zones. As well as an event programme, the Night Time Enterprise Zone has also provided town centre improvements. A business toolkit has been produced providing advice and guidance to venues that are considering opening later and a campaign called Good Work Bromley has been launched to promote good work standards.
- Approval was granted by the RRH Executive Committee on 5th July 2023, to progress with the use of up to £1m of SIF/WFbG funds, in order to deploy new dark fibre using the communications infrastructure provider procured by GLA, via the TfL framework. Using SIF/WFbG funding, the Council will deploy new (separate to Council's existing network) dark fibre across the borough; to be managed by a provider, who will own and maintain the new infrastructure. The Council will have the right to use the new infrastructure for its digital services over a 20-year term.
- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK Governments Levelling Up agenda. Monies received from this fund have been used to implement business support programmes for Bromley's local SME's. Including 1-2-1 support, supply chain readiness and support for start up businesses. This programme is anticipated to start in mid-November. Funding has also been allocated to the West Wickham temporary Library scheme to ensure there is still access to the services of the library while the new facility is being developed.
- The Council successfully secured £720k from the Brownfield Release Fund to undertake enabling works for the Bromley North Car park Housing Development. These works include demolition of the existing buildings, tree retention and removal, site surveys and decontamination works. The Council has appointed consultants to produce the enabling works tender package with the objective of commencing the tender process in January 2024, to be awarded in March 2024.

3.6.3. Enable the business potential of Biggin Hill and the Cray corridor.

- As part of Start Up Bromley (detailed in 3.4.1), members have access to business lounges across Bromley, one within Biggin Hill Memorial Library. Facilities were launched in Biggin Hill on 7th October 2021; as well as the business lounge, there is also a Business Corner with seating and desk space among the business and career books.
- As detailed in 3.6.1, the Council is implementing plans to deploy dark fibre across the borough; anchored at key/strategic sites, including Biggin Hill Airport and Cray Valley.
- The Council have commissioned Avison Young and Maccreanor to prepare an Employment Land and Space Study (ELSS) to support the review of Bromley's Local Plan, which studies the industrial market of Biggin Hill and the Cray Business Corridor and how best to meet occupier demand in these areas.

3.7. Encouraging tourism

3.7.1. Develop partnerships with Visit Kent, hotels and attractions across the borough.

- The restoration of the Grade II* listed Crystal Palace Subway is due to complete at the end of November 2023. The building will be leased to the Crystal Palace Park Trust for community use. Once the restoration is complete the Subway is planned to become a new cultural destination for South London. This use for the historic building was originally set out in the 2007 Masterplan and has been carried into the Regeneration Plan.
- The Covid Cultural Programming Grant (detailed in 3.4.2) was given in 2021 to bring cultural events and activity to town centres and High Streets following Covid. Successful applicants of the grant were then gathered to create a collective forum which was named 'Inspire Bromley'. This group now meets regularly to share ongoing ideas and plans for activity that brings the community together and offers an enhanced cultural experience of their local area.
- Each September, Bromley participates in the Open House Festival which sees building and places of interest opening their doors to the public for free over a two week period. This Festival brings people to Bromley from all across London and further afield too. Post Covid, Bromley saw a fantastic return to Open House with over 20 venues across the borough taking part each year, including for 2023, the Crystal Palace Subway which saw 750 visitors alone. The Council aims to see continued success and engagement with this wonderful event each year.
- Bromley took part in the London Festival of Architecture as a key destination venue. In 2023, Penge and Palace joined the festival hosting over 30 events and including a wide range of local stakeholders. A wayfinding project encouraged visitors to follow a trail of historic, cultural and architecturally significant sites around the area. The festival was positively received by locals and wider afield, with many new visitors becoming aware of what is to offer in this culturally diverse area of the Borough. The Borough is increasing its involvement in next year's 20th Anniversary Festival, including Orpington, Bromley, Downe and Chislehurst, alongside Penge, as a key destination for 2024.
- Crofton Roman Villa was occupied from AD 140 to 400 and was originally at the centre of a 500-acre farming estate. The Ancient Scheduled Monument (the Roman Villa) is itself in good condition and requires no works, however, the building protecting it requires extensive repair works. The Council are working to complete the necessary repair works identified in the Operational Property Review.

3.7.2. Improve the borough's film friendliness.

- The Council's filming contract has gone from strength to strength since 2020 through effective partnership working, maximising Bromley's green spaces/empty stock, and widening filming locations. In that time, the Council has driven the income from filming from 13k per annum to over 87K and 150 days of filming in the financial year of 22-23, making it the Council's most successful year yet. Bromley now regularly hosts filming for Hollywood Blockbusters and Netflix series'. There is a plan in place to further widen filming in the borough.

3.7.3. Create opportunities for attractions to promote their offer.

- Bromley Historic Collections secured a small grant from Art Fund and Museum Development London for Audience Development Research undertaken by The Earth Museum in three locations (Bromley Central Library / The Glades / The Churchill

Theatre) in March 2022. The findings and recommendations have had a direct effect on improved marketing of exhibitions including the work of artist Gram Hilleard in an exhibition, Escaping in Suburbia. The art works were displayed in April 2022 alongside objects and ephemera from the artist himself and from the Memory Museum. The marketing for this exhibition was more targeted attracting an alternative demographic coming into the library and engaging with the display. The artist remained in residence for the duration of the exhibition run and received more than 350 visitors over one week.

- As detailed in 3.7.1, Bromley participates in the Open House Festival each September, which sees building and places of interest, including heritage sites, opening their doors to the public for free over a two week period.
- As detailed in 3.7.1, Bromley is increasing involvement in the London Festival of Architecture for the 20th Anniversary Festival, including Orpington, Downe, Bromley and Chislehurst, alongside Penge, as key destinations for 2024.

3.7.4. Support the conservation and promotion of the borough's heritage assets and historic landscape.

- The Museum Collection managed by GLL through Bromley Historic Collections (BHC) received full accreditation from Arts Council England in November 2021. Following this, in order to strengthen and develop the service, the Earth Museum who have delivered a number of projects for Bromley Historic Collections began a new partnership with BHC in November 2022 to lead on the development of BHC, provide ongoing support and a new curator.
- The CALM data cleansing project to update individual museum catalogue records and improve the accessibility of the records for Bromley Historic Collections was concluded in 2021. As part of the process, entries are updated with new information including those in the Lubbock Collection.
- In early March 2022, Bromley Historic Collections collaborated with the Churchill Theatre putting on an exhibition about the experiences of local soldiers during World War I to accompany performances of Michael Morpurgo's Private Peaceful. BHC aim to develop and work with other partners and local community groups using the library's flexible temporary exhibition space to attract new customers.
- The Battle of Britain Lace Panel, presented to the Borough in the 1940s, has been accessioned to Bromley Historic Collections. The new installation of the panel was completed in May 2023 and is available to view in Bromley Central Library during normal library opening hours. BHC have provided information on the panel for visitors and will be including it in their education work with schools. An event to celebrate the installation of the panel took place on September 15th on Battle of Britain day.
- As detailed in 3.3.3, the Crystal Palace Park Regeneration Plan is underway.

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1. Providing high quality community spaces for young people provides a safe environment for children facing adverse circumstances, offering a sense of security. Improved educational and community facilities, such as the Libraries Repair Works Programme offer access to educational resources and support systems that can allow vulnerable children to reach their full potential.

Additionally, they promote social interaction, allowing young people to develop vital social skills and form strong relationships with peers and adults. Prioritising these spaces allows Bromley to invest in the future of at-risk youth, offering them a more secure future.

- 4.2. Improved leisure facilities have a positive impact on vulnerable adults and children by enhancing their overall well-being. For vulnerable adults, projects like the Leisure Centre Major Works provide opportunities for physical and mental health improvements and social interaction. They can combat isolation and offer a support network, positively impacting mental health. For vulnerable children, improved leisure facilities encourage healthy development and provide a safe and supervised environment for play and learning. The improvement of facilities also encourages social skills and a sense of belonging, ultimately empowering vulnerable children to lead more fulfilling lives.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report as it is for information only and members are asked to note the update.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. This report requests Members to note the contents of the Regeneration Strategy which was adopted by the Council in September 2020.
- 6.2. As per this Committee's Terms of Reference in the Council's Constitution, it is responsible for, "the development of the Council's plans within the policy framework that make up this portfolio, and exploring whether such plans are being achieved effectively."

7. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report primarily concerns the performance of the Regeneration Strategy 2020 -2030. Any procurement arising will be subject to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 7.2 The Corporate Procurement Team will be consulted on the specifics of any procurement arising.

8. PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The works under the Operational Property Refurbishment Programme must identify and prioritise required property repairs to ensure the effective functioning of the buildings and reduce the future maintenance costs.

9. CARBON REDUCTION/SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATION

- 9.1. Investing in public projects, such as the Library Repair Works Programme, enhances the community spaces within the borough. Social value is generated when young people have access to quality educational facilities and resources that allow for self-development.
- 9.2. The Crystal Palace Park Regeneration Plan was assessed against the existing socio-economic baseline conditions as part of the outline planning application. Different socio-economic baseline conditions were considered to assess effects at a local, borough and regional level. The socio-economic baseline conditions were established using nationally recognised data and research, including (but not limited to) the 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics employment data, and statistics released by the Department for Education and National Health Service. Once complete and in operation, the Regeneration Plan interventions will generate 46 net jobs in the Greater London area through a variety of means.

- 9.3. Projects such as the Affordable Housing Programme ensure that the community have a high-quality residential offer, with a commitment to making housing more financially accessible for all residents.
- 9.4. Solar panels and air source heat pumps are also being delivered to Affordable Housing Schemes to improve sustainability. The Kevin Fenton Mews development (formerly known as Burnt Ash Lane) is also a net zero housing scheme.
- 9.5. The Regeneration Strategy prioritises the success of local businesses. Activating the local community through exciting projects makes Bromley a more attractive place to both visit and live, allowing for local businesses to access a wider market and thrive. Projects also provide an opportunity for greater local spend on local businesses for services where possible.

10.IMPACT ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY

10.1. One of the five objectives of the Regeneration Strategy is ‘*Strengthening our Town Centres and Local Economy*’. This objective entails modernising Bromley, establishing fresh planning guidelines for Bromley Town and developing programmes to enhance towns and local centres. Upgrading Bromley’s digital infrastructure promotes technological advancement, but also attracts businesses seeking well-connected location and will potentially increase investment and job opportunities. The development of programmes for town centre improvements, with the aim of securing grant funding, can improve community businesses and services, and increase visitor and tourism numbers. This, in turn, can lead to a more vibrant local economy, benefiting both residents and businesses within the borough.

11.IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

11.1. The Regeneration Strategy widely improves the well-being of its residents. By creating well-maintained public spaces, modern housing options and making more opportunities for social interaction, it promotes physical and mental health in Bromley. In turn, this reduces isolation and enhances emotional well-being of residents. Attracting new businesses and economic opportunities through regeneration leads to increased employment, which directly impacts the well-being of those employed within the borough.

12.CUSTOMER IMPACT

12.1. The Regeneration Strategy’s focus on modern housing, improved public spaces, and upgraded community facilities to support the wellbeing of Bromley residents. The strategy commits to providing improved opportunities and a better quality of life, ensuring that residents can thrive, making Bromley an even more welcoming and inclusive place to live. Additionally through projects such as Crofton Roman Villa and Crystal Palace Park, the strategy provides opportunity for residents to continue to feel a connection to their local history and have a greater understanding of the character of the borough, and for economic growth and business prosperity through tourism.

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| Non-Applicable Headings: | Transformation/Policy implications; Personnel implications; Ward councilor views. |
| Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer) | report no: HPR2020/020 |