

**Question from Lesley Mansell for the Housing and Major Projects Policy
Development and Scrutiny Panel**

Question:

Radstock Economic Regeneration

I wish to pose two questions to the above scrutiny panel.

When are the proposals for the actions relating to the funding for regeneration in Radstock going to be discussed now that the Cabinet meeting has been cancelled?

What is the timetable for implementing the actions?

Answer:

A paper will be taken to April's Cabinet meeting setting out how the Council proposes to allocate the capital given that Cabinet is not meeting in March. This will be based on feedback from the consultation exercise as well as from the Radstock and Westfield Economic Forum. Once approved, the funds can be drawn down and the agreed process implemented.

It will be for the Radstock and Westfield Economic Forum to develop a clear set of criteria to deliver the money through a competitive process. They have had some initial discussions about that already at the last meeting of the group in December. The Cabinet paper will be requesting that the funding is recommended for full approval to be delivered through that route.

In relation to your broader questions, the money is still available after 31st March so there is no danger of it not being spent. In addition the Radstock and Westfield Economic Forum did receive feedback on the proposals they put forward via an e-mail on 14th January.

In the meantime work has been continuing to support local businesses. In January and February, we have achieved the following:

- 6 x business visits undertaken
- 1 x Have a Go apprenticeship event
- 2 x referrals to Job Centre Plus to develop bulk recruitment opportunities.
- 1 x referral to Manufacturing Advice Service
- 3 x referrals to Improve Your Resource Efficiency
- 2 x Summer Internship secured for Writhlington Career Academy
- 2 x Company referrals for Norton Radstock Fairy Job Mother mock interviews.
- 1 x Referral to National Apprenticeship Service