

Economic Development and Regeneration

- A new **business support contract** has been awarded and is now delivering start up courses for people across the District. In a field of strong candidates, the contract was awarded to Cool Ventures
- The **Economic Strategy** refresh process has started. We will be presenting to the Scrutiny Panel on this in the New Year
- On **broadband**, BT will begin their survey work as part of the BDUK project in Spring next year in some of our rural communities. We are pleased to have been able to support some parishes (e.g. Claverton) with their aspirations to put a new cabinet into their village and broker conversations with BT
- Through the Keynsham Development Advisory Group (KDAG) we are pleased to have been able to begin discussions about the works on the **High Street in Keynsham**. We continue to work with Taylor Wimpey on the employment space at Somerdale
- We continue to work with the LEP on the development of its **Strategic Economic Plan**, which will allow us to access our share of a £50m single pot which Government is putting forward through the West of England LEP to support economic growth. We are also working with them on the development and delivery of a new Single pot for EU funding which will also be delivered through the LEPs from 2015
- The **Enterprise Area masterplan** work is proceeding with the team appointed and beginning to undertake the first element of the project, which is an update of the evidence base for the EA.
- We are about to publish a call for projects in **Radstock** against a £50k capital fund for community projects

Heritage Services

- **Bath Record Office grant:** £40,000 from the National Cataloguing Scheme for Archives to catalogue Council records going back to 1189
- **Fashion Museum grant:** £2,500 from The Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts for DesignQuest at the Museum
- **Bath and the Great Western Railway** exhibition now open at the Victoria Art Gallery – features the important but rarely seen painting *The Railway Station* by William Powell Frith and 13 vintage Bath railway posters from the VAG collection
- **Use of social media:** a recent survey of the digital profile of the top 50 UK visitor attractions puts the Roman Baths 23rd on the list – between Hampton Court Palace and National Portrait Gallery – for its use of social media including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogging and website
- **Customer Service Excellence:** the assessor has renewed Heritage Services' CSE status and awarded another 'compliance plus', giving the Service a total of 10 'compliance plus' (ie best practice) scores
- **China Welcome Charter:** the Roman Baths is one of a select number of businesses invited by Visit Britain to feature in its draft China Welcome Charter in support of Government initiatives to promote in-bound tourism from China
- **Beau Street Hoard:** Round 2 funding application now submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund; the fund-raising appeal launched by the Chair of Council in July has reached £50,000 towards the target of £60,000
- **Temple Precinct:** now closed until Easter 2014 to put in a step-free walkway as part of ongoing 'Roman Baths Development' to improve accessibility and the visitor experience

- **Assembly Rooms:** the Council has signed a new 15-year lease with the National Trust
- **Learning Outside the Classroom:** the Fashion Museum and Roman Baths have renewed their Quality Badges with this Government-sponsored scheme
- **Twitter milestone** – the Fashion Museum has now exceeded its target of 3500 followers by the end of 2013
- **Forthcoming exhibition** – the Fashion Museum has secured the loan of three ensembles worn by Diana Princess of Wales and designed by David Sassoon, plus a collection of drawings of 70 additional designs for Diana, to be displayed in the Museum throughout 2014

Film Office and Arts

- **BBC's Children In Need and Points West** was broadcast live from Roman Baths on Friday 15th November. Bath was chosen as the opening location for the choir section of the show as it was considered to look the best of all the nationwide locations.
- **The Curse of the Midas Box**, the big feature that was filmed in Bath last year has just had its US release announced for January, so we are hoping to hear of the UK release date very soon. We hope to hold a local pre-release screening for internal colleagues and external stakeholders involved in the filming. Here's a link to its trailer:
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1376213/?ref_=nm_film_act_3
- And we have just heard from Giles Foster, director of Unknown Heart, his most recent **Rosamunde Pilcher** drama adaptation, with top ratings on German TV, which shot in and around Bath this summer that he has secured a date for a local pre-release screening in January. The drama will be shown at Komedia Cinema on Sunday 19th January. Invitations will shortly be going out to Council colleagues and others connected to the filming.
- The LEP proposal for a **Shoot West Film Marketing Office**, with which Film Office has been involved since its early stages has now been approved and the first stage of its submission for funding has gone forward. This will also involve funding for improvements at the Bottle Yard film and tv studios in Henleaze.
- Film Office is also helping to set-up a new umbrella organisation **FO:UK (Film Offices: UK)**, a new England-wide association that will allow film offices to exchange best practice and to take part in joint ventures.
- **Hot off the press:** - Visit Britain are coming to film a promo in Bath this week because we've been voted No 1 Visitor destination on social media.

World Heritage Management

- **Great Spas of Europe**

The Council continues to keep an active interest in the 'Great Spas of Europe' project, led by the government of the Czech Republic. The project seeks to gain World Heritage status for an elite group of historic European spas, in order to recognise the contribution which spas have made to European and world culture. Whilst Bath is already a world heritage site, we want to be recognised as being within this elite group, primarily for tourism marketing purposes. In order to stay with the project and leave future options open, it was necessary for Bath to be included on the UK Tentative list of potential world heritage nominations. Competition for inclusion on the UK tentative list is extremely strong, and it is therefore tightly controlled by the UK Government.

We wrote to Minister Ed Vaizey, requesting his assistance in this matter, and worked closely with MP Don Foster and MEP Sir Graham Watson, who were both convinced of our case. We were delighted to receive a response from Minister Vaizey dated 24 October 2013 saying that it has been determined that it will be possible to include Bath on the current UK Tentative List.

The project is long-term and World Heritage recognition is by no means certain. However, the willingness of the UK Government to review their policy position and back Bath in this venture allows us to keep our rightful place at the top table of European Spas, and to continue to assess the benefits that staying with this project may bring.

- **World Heritage Site Management Plan**

The 2010-2016 World Heritage Site Management Plan is now at mid-term stage, and a progress report has recently been compiled for the Steering Group and for UNESCO. From a total of 71 actions in the plan, approximately half (48%) have already been achieved, with a further 39% underway. The most notable achievements have made by the World Heritage Enhancement Fund, which has turned £152, 000 of funding into over a £1m of work on the ground, across a total of 51 projects.

The recently appointed independent Steering Group Chairman, Peter Metcalfe, has undertaken a review of the workings of that group and is proposing a full report on World Heritage progress to the Council in Spring 2014.