

Cabinet Member Update

Cllr Ben Stevens – Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

Economic Development and Regeneration

- New employment figures show an improving situation in Bath and North East Somerset. The figures for Bath are approximately 20% lower than the previous year.
- Enterprise Area Masterplan: Jones Lang LaSalle viability report on Innovation Quay largely complete and has strongly informed the Masterplan team's work. Transport Strategy emerging recommendations are also being incorporated. Fielden Clegg Bradely team on track to deliver draft final report by end of May
- Full public consultation (on the Masterplan and Transport Strategy) will be carried out as part of the Placemaking Plan from November 14

Employment and skills

- Successful completion of Employment & Skills Section 106 provisions on BWR phase 1 including the establishment of 10 apprenticeships
- Keynsham Town Centre Redevelopment – on track to achieve outcomes on apprenticeships (3) and work placements for care leavers (2) under Recruitment & Training Plan with main contractor
- Employment & Skills Section 106 Agreement formalised with Bovis Homes in relation to redevelopment of Purnell Paulton factory site
- 16 new apprenticeship starts in B&NES Council since April 2013 and on course to achieve year-end target of 20 new starts
- Inaugural Manufacturing Forum held at Norton Radstock College
- Retro fit supply chain event held in conjunction with Low Carbon South West – 30 attendees from local businesses

Business Support and Worklessness

- Since April 2013 200+ businesses have received individual support through the Council's SLA's with Cool Ventures and Low Carbon SW.
- In conjunction with Cool Ventures we have engaged with Job Centre Plus, Learn Direct and the National Careers Service to provide a self-employment route for the longer term unemployed.
- In the last quarter the Worklessness Team have assisted 26 people into employment (from their target groups – long term 12months+ unemployed and vulnerable care leavers)
- The re-configured Invest in Bath website is due to be launched in March. Covering the B&NES area it will serve as a front door for businesses seeking information on business support services, new investment opportunities and links to a range of business facing Council services.
- Arrangements have been finalised for The Guild Co-Working Hub to host the first B&NES Hackday on the 23rd and 24th March. The event will bring together software designers and developers from across the authority area to compete and develop a smartphone friendly application that will be of benefit to the entire community.
- We are working closely with the Events Team on the development and delivery of the Bath Digital Festival, a week-long event, which showcases the cities strengths in digital technologies, scheduled for the end of October.

Arts and Culture

- A consortium of Bath and Bristol organisations have been awarded £350,000 grant from a joint Visit England & Arts Council England Fund called 'Cultural

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Destinations’. This is for developing imaginative solutions for marketing cultural activity (arts and heritage) to attract ‘cultural tourism’. Bath Tourism Plus and Cultural Forum for the Bath Area have been key partners in this initiative. Our bid was one of only 2 to receive the full amount of funding.

Heritage Services

- BBC West Children in Need: anchored from the Roman Baths on 15 November; reached a live UK audience of 9.8 million people.
- Bath Record Office grant: £41,567 from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme Scheme to catalogue Bath Corporation records;
- Fashion Museum grant: £2,500 from The Prince’s Foundation for DesignQuest;
- Bath and the Great Western Railway exhibition at the Victoria Art Gallery;
- Customer Service Excellence: status renewed with a record 10th ‘compliance plus’;
- China Welcome Charter: Roman Baths part of VisitBritain in-bound tourism promotion;
- Learning Outside the Classroom: Fashion Museum + Roman Baths Quality Badges renewed;
- Roman Baths visitor numbers: 996,143 in calendar year 2013 – a record.

World Heritage Site

- European Spas project nicely on course (briefing note coming out end of this week), and initial submission of a bid to UNESCO is programmed for May this year.