

## Cabinet Member Update - Cllr Ben Stevens

### Regeneration

- Enterprise Area Masterplan endorsed by Cabinet 12 November. To be formally launched in the New Year. Forms evidence base for Placemaking Plan Options Document endorsed at the same meeting
- EA delivery is critically linked to and dependent upon success of the “Getting Around Bath” Transport Strategy endorsed by Council on 13 November
- Innovation Quay Business Case 1 submitted to LEP for consideration at LEP Board in December
- Prior Approval planning application submitted to LPA for demolition of Avon Street Car Park, with accompanying press including Bath Chronicle and BBC Radio Bristol
- Bath Riverside has won Best Completed Project Award and Best Housing Award
- Bath Quays Waterside planning application due for determination early in the New Year, construction start anticipated Spring 2015
- SetSquared Innovation Centre now ranked 1st in Europe and 2nd in the world for start-up business incubation and growth
- Discussions ongoing with University re Manvers Street
- Kingsmead House to be developed as hotel, Green Park House redevelopment for student residential ongoing
- Strategic River Group partners (B&NES, Environment Agency and Canal and Rivers Trust) together delivering safety improvements to River Avon
- Local Sustainable Transport Fund approval of £0.5m secured for further riverside improvements

### Economy and Culture

- New manager for new Economy and Culture Team, Ben Woods, started work. He joins us from Newham borough in London where he was involved in maximising benefit from the London Olympics.
- Economic Development Strategy Review launched Thursday 6th November to an audience of 70 businesses.
- In the first 12 months of the Council’s latest Business Support contract a total of 132 potential start-up and existing businesses have accessed the advice and support services. 21 new businesses (across a variety of sectors including creative and cultural, food and drink, and professional services) have started trading largely as a result of receiving

business planning and financial advice from the service. Seven businesses have been enabled to access start-up and commercial loans totalling in excess of £80,000

- Delivered 'Making Work Work' event with 52 attendees, including 45 internal managers, learning about the benefits of Apprenticeships, Work Experience, Traineeships and Internships including how these opportunities could specifically help our own Looked After Children and Children Leaving Care. Speakers were Dr Jo Farrar, (Chief Executive); Councillor Paul Crossley, (Leader of the Council); Cllr Ben Stevens; John Wilkinson, Place Director; Ashley Ayre – People & Communities Strategic Director; Derek Quilter, Divisional Director, Project Manager and his apprentice, Jake Williams. (an apprentice himself and following a degree course through the apprenticeship programme). Feedback has been very positive with Customer Service, Revs & Bens, already planning a discussion with HR and Employment & Skills team about taking on a customer service apprentice and a further meeting between Employment & Skills and HR to determine how to take forward recommendations from an earlier review workshop
- To date in 14/15 35 care leavers and out of work benefit claimants have been assisted into paid employment and/or training and there have been 6 new apprenticeship starts in the Council
- Thursday 6th and Friday 7th November we hosted the Taiwanese Ambassador and his trade delegation. Delegation toured a number of engineering firms across the city, attended a Mayoral Civic Reception and met with additional businesses interested in exporting to Bath. Taiwanese ambassador has suggested closer economic and cultural links to between the Bath and Taiwan.
- The first of two large meetings of stakeholders was held on 7th November in the Assembly Rooms to scope out the Creative and Cultural strategy this was very well-attended (around 70 attendees) by a good cross-section of organizations. Steve Fuller presented the City Identity project and Margaret Heffernan talked about the benefits of collaborative working. Greg Ingham has offered Media Clash to design the strategy booklet. A steering group has been established and will hold its first meeting in the next few weeks.
- Under the Connecting Devon & Somerset BDUK broadband partnership, covering Devon, Somerset, North Somerset and B&NES, survey work on existing rural service networks is now underway in B&NES and the roll-out of superfast broadband is expected to start in 2015. The survey work will determine the future programme for service provision and this is therefore subject to change on an ongoing basis. However to assist with information provision the CDS website <http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/> now provides a postcode search facility. By using this facility specific properties can determine whether they are included in the rural broadband roll-out programme and the current schedule for survey work in the area.
- CD&S has also, with support from the Council and other partners, been successful in securing additional government funding for a further investment of £38.3m in extending the coverage of rural broadband to 95% of properties by 2017.

#### Heritage Services

- UNESCO Deputy Director-General visited Bath on Friday 31 October to recognise the inscription of the Roman curses from the Sacred Spring on the UK Memory of the World register;
- Delegation from the Department of Antiquities in Jordan (which manages ancient sites like Jerash and Petra) to look at Heritage Services' business planning principles;
- Stephen Bird, Head of Heritage Services, awarded 'The Boomerang' by the Britain-Australia Society for 2014/15, for services to Anglo-Oz relations;
- The large Roman mosaic from the Durley Hill villa at Keynsham is now on display in the new Civic Centre building in Keynsham;
- Victoria Art Gallery is piloting a new teaching workshop session called Plasticine People, based on William Harbutt's invention of plasticine in Bath in the 1880s. This links to the new national curriculum for Key Stage 1
- Heritage Services has been awarded a Round 1 HLF grant of £168k to develop its plans for a Roman Baths Learning Centre and World Heritage Interpretation Centre.

#### World Heritage Management:

- 'Great Spas of Europe' project application form to UNESCO has been submitted. Under the operational guidelines for World Heritage Sites, each 'state party' is required to hold a Tentative List, which is an inventory of properties which that government intends to consider for nomination. The Great Spas project now appears on the UNESCO web site as being officially included on the UK Tentative List. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/state=gb>
- The UNESCO information dossier (referred to in your September briefing) has also been submitted to the Dept. Culture, Media & Sport with a request to forward it to UNESCO in Paris. This document was recently used to brief UNESCO Deputy Director Mr Getachew during his visit to Bath as guest of honour for the Memory of the World event and therefore presented an opportunity for a consistent positive message to be relayed.