

SUBJECT:	VISION 2020 – REMARKABLE PLACE PROGRESS REPORT
DIRECTORATE:	COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT
REPORT AUTHOR:	SIMON WALTERS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide to Performance Scrutiny Committee with the annual update on progress towards the *Let's enhance our remarkable place* strategic priority in Vision 2020.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report focuses on progress made on the *Let's enhance our remarkable place* strategic priority, and covers both those projects being progressed as part of the delivery plan, along with the 'day to day' service activities that happen across the council that are vital to the delivery of this priority.

3. Background

- 3.1 Vision 2020 was published in January 2017, and contains four strategic priorities (*Let's reduce inequality; Let's drive economic growth; Let's deliver quality housing; and Let's enhance our remarkable place*), along with an important strand of work focusing on *High performing service delivery*.
- 3.2 As part of the arrangements for managing and monitoring progress of Vision 2020, the council established four Vision Groups along with a High Performing Services Board, each with a Corporate Management Team lead.
- 3.3 It has been agreed Performance Scrutiny Committee will receive an annual report from each of these Vision Groups to enable Members to look in more detail at the progress. This is the latest annual report covering the period 2018/19 (to date), and focuses on the work of the Remarkable Place Vision Group.
- 3.4 The Remarkable Place Vision Group leads on delivering the council's aspirations under the *Let's enhance our remarkable place* strategic priority. These are;
- Let's show the world what Lincoln has to offer
 - Let's cherish and enhance our natural environment
 - Let's preserve the unique character of our city
 - Let's deliver a rich and varied cultural experience
 - Let's provide interesting, exciting and vibrant places to enjoy
- 3.5 In addition to all the 'day to day' services the council offers which is central to the

delivery of these aspirations, a programme has been developed to ensure the delivery of this strategic priority.

4. Position Statement (Appendix A)

4.1 The Position Statement is attached to this report as **Appendix A**. It captures the 'day to day' work by the council that is integral to delivering this strategic priority. This was captured to ensure we understand what our current baseline is for delivering this priority, and to recognise how staff across the authority have a role in delivering Vision 2020. This was reported to the committee last year but has been updated to reflect the latest year's figures

5. Remarkable Place Project Monitoring Table (Appendix B)

5.1 This provides an overview of the projects being delivered in the second year (of three) for this strategic priority, and is attached to this report as **Appendix B**.

5.2 There are 21 projects covered in Appendix B which represent the programme for 2018/19 (in addition to the Sincil Bank Regeneration Scheme which is covered separately in **Appendix C**).

5.3 Overall there remains strong progress within this strategic priority, with a number of key achievements/ completions:

- Practical completion of the renovation of Boultham Park in early 2018, followed by an official opening in May 2018 attended by several thousand people. This was also followed by a Royal visit from Princess Anne. The focus now is closing down the financial aspects of the project and rectifying a few remaining snags. Work is now taking place on a separate bid to Heritage Lottery Fund to renovate the lake and surrounding banks. This will likewise be an exciting project if funding application is successful. The City Council is through round one of bidding and has a specialist undertaking the project management function to move the council to round two.
- It's pleasing to note that the city centre CCTV system has been completed. This has been supplemented by the installation of a city centre wifi system offering a free internet connection for anyone with a mobile device in the city centre. 11,000 users have used it between Nov 2018 and Jan 2019, since it went live in October 2018, with the council planning more advertising/awareness raising shortly.
- The city council has announced that the size of the air quality management area in the city centre has been reduced as air quality generally in the city centre is improving. A new air quality action plan is well on the way to being completed by the end of March 2019.
- Protection of wildlife sites are important in the city and two initiatives have been commenced in 2018/19 – one to record the vital characteristics of 52 sites in the city and another looking at the feasibility of a new tree planting scheme.
- The Secretary of State has approved our application to remove the deemed planning consent for the display of "To Let" boards in three terraced areas of

the city. This effectively means the city council can manage the proliferation of such signage, which is so destructive to the street scene. Following anticipated Executive approval in February 2019, this will come into effect in April 2019 and all such boards will be removed. This is a significant improvement for the residents who live in the areas affected.

- The City Council now has the match funding required to pursue an innovative scheme with Historic England to focus on restoring shop frontages to their original look and feel on that part of the High Street which borders Sincil Bank. Discussions are now progressing with Historic England to move the project forward (in its current form –Psica scheme- it can fund at least 20 shop frontages) or whether a much larger scheme can be commissioned. If successful this will have a transformative effect in that part of the city.
- In order to ensure our allotments are used well into the future, the council commenced phase one capital investment of £650k in 2017/18. This year sees the continuation of the project to take spend up to the £1m mark. As well as necessary improvements across the council's stock, it will also see the introduction of a much needed new site in Birchwood at Melbourne Road.
- The council has been successful in achieving grant funding from the football foundation and Sport England to invest in our outdoor sports facilities. This includes a new All-weather pitch at Birchwood LC and Yarborough LC plus renovation of an existing pitch at Yarbrough LC and the complete overhaul of the athletics track. This represents a £1.7m investment in local publicly accessible sporting facilities.
- Introduction of a city centre intervention team to help tackle the issue of addiction fuelled ASB and begging in the city centre. This is an innovative approach incorporating a mental health worker and an addiction worker to help people into support first and foremost. This is a yearlong pilot and the City Council, in its community leadership role, has brought a range of partners together to make this pilot happen. Early indications are that it is having a direct impact but it is still early in the project.
- Work has started on developing the specifications for our key “front door” services of refuse collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. With some external specialist support, officers are now developing a range of member workshops to determine the scope of the new specifications when the existing contracts come to an end in 2022.

Of the 21 projects in Appendix B, three are flagged as complete; twelve are flagged as green which means they are on track for delivery; three are flagged as Amber which means there is some slippage to the milestones; and three are flagged as red which means they have either stalled or been intentionally put on hold to prioritise resources elsewhere.

5.4 Amber Projects:

- The council completed a £1.5m re-development of Birchwood Leisure Centre in 2017/18. Visitor numbers have continued to increase dramatically. Focus now is completing the construction snags before the defect liability period ends.

Overall a very successful project.

- Work on potentially redesigning traffic flows within the Sincil Bank revitalisation area are complex and tightly linked to the proposals to test residents views on residents parking. In order to tackle some of the traffic issues in the area, the streets need to be cleared of commuter parking to effectively give them back to the local community and allow the streets to “breathe again”. County Council have been commissioned to run three traffic models for the area on how the one way systems etc. could be re designed to give priority back to cyclists and pedestrians. Once this work is completed it will be aligned with the residents parking project in spring 2019.

5.5 Red Projects:

- The project to explore options for a new leisure village has been flagged as Red. This is because it was intentionally placed on hold to prioritise work on Birchwood Leisure Centre, crematorium and the outdoor play facility project. Now staff resources have become available from February 2019, work will commence at pace, and in accordance with the timeline now developed.
- Work on the renovation scheme for our existing crematorium had to be re-evaluated when the original project outcomes could no longer be achieved. Rather than continue with the original project, officers have revisited the scheme and developed an alternative project that will be considered by Executive Committee in early March 2019.
- Boutham Park – as covered in the section above, this scheme is almost complete and successfully opened. It remains a red project purely until the final account is received from the contractor and payments made.

6. Sincil Bank Regeneration Scheme Monitoring Table (Appendix C)

- 6.1 The Sincil Bank Regeneration Scheme is a large programme of work that cuts across all four strategic priorities. It is most closely aligns to *Let's enhance our remarkable place* and so responsibility for its committee reporting arrangements sits within the Remarkable Place Vision Group.

Over the last year there have been a number of notable successes:

- Opened a neighbourhood office in the area, from which the team will operate
- Opened a community hub operated by the university, from which architect classes will be delivered using areas in the local community as a focus for intervention and redesign
- Introduction of CCTV in the Hermit Street and Portland Street areas. A number of cases have already been caught on camera and the area generally has become free of illegal dumping
- The majority of the old cast iron street name plates in the area have been totally renovated.

- Enforcement work led by the community against wheelie bins left out on the street has been very successful and will be extended to other streets
- High profile scheme delivered to paint various the virgin media street boxes by local artists to create an art trail and bring colour to the area
- Old street railings/ barriers removed
- Event space created under Pelham Bridge and events held
- Feasibility work to look at how the Sincil Drain's visual impact could be reduced
- Community Chest launched and operated enabling local groups / residents to undertake their own local projects. To date 21 projects funded totalling £33,622.65.
- Community land trust being established

6.2 Amber Projects:

- The redesign of traffic flows as covered in Section 5.4 above
- Options for Hermit Street garage site into the long term. Various options have been considered and feasibility studies commenced. This will be a focus over the next year.

7. Performance Measures (Appendix D)

- 7.1 A set of performance indicators to monitor the outcomes of these projects has been developed.
- 7.2 For some projects, the measures of success are still being collated. Nevertheless, Appendix D does show the indicators allocated to each relevant project, and for those where data can start to be collected, this has been populated.
- 7.3 Over time, as more projects are completed, more performance data will be added to the table to ensure the full range of indicators can be considered by Performance Scrutiny Committee in future Remarkable Place Progress Reports.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That Performance Scrutiny Committee consider the progress report of the Remarkable Place Vision Group and refer to Executive.

Is this a key decision?

No

Do the exempt information categories apply?

No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

Four

List of Background Papers:

None

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