

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 9 March 2015
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PART I NON-KEY DECISION

MANIFESTO UPDATE FOR PLEDGES 2014/15

1 Purpose of Report

To inform cabinet of the council projects undertaken following adoption of the manifesto in June 2014.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

Cabinet is requested to resolve that the progress made to date on the projects undertaken as part of the commitment to the manifesto pledges adopted in June 2014 be noted.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) is the document that details the priorities agreed for Slough with partner organisations. The SJWS has been developed using a comprehensive evidence base that includes the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

This report and the projects detailed link to the following priorities in the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS):

- Health
- Regeneration and Environment
- Safer Communities
- Housing

Projects within this work also contribute to the cross cutting themes of the strategy by encouraging civic responsibility and improving the image of the town.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

The work has been undertaken using existing budgets for 2014/15 and community investment funding

There are no other financial implications from this report.

(b) Risk Management

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
Legal	None	
Property	None	
Human Rights	None	
Health and Safety	None	
Employment Issues	None	
Equalities Issues	None	
Community Support	None	
Communications	None	
Community Safety	None	
Financial	None	
Timetable for delivery	None	
Project Capacity	None	
Other	None	

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The report does not have any legal or human rights act implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

This report does not have any equalities implications and there is no identified need for the completion of an EIA.

5 **Supporting Information**

5.1 The ruling group's manifesto was formally adopted by Cabinet at their meeting of 23 June 2014.

5.2 The manifesto pledges and work on them since their formal adoption follows with each being taken in turn.

5.3 Complete the construction of Slough's new central library, arts and learning space The Curve and advance plans for the remaining Heart of Slough zones to continue revitalising the town centre

The construction of The Curve continues to timetable with the building expected to open to the public late 2015.

Topping off of the building expected to take place on 18 March.

Cabinet is currently considering the future for other zones – form other reports on the agenda.

As part of the Five Year Plan, the town centre forms a key outcome and an internal town centre working group for this outcome has been set up, has begun meeting and has agreed a project plan and time table to undertake and complete the component pieces of work.

- 5.4 Install CCTV to communal areas of council-managed housing blocks where tenants support this
A pilot project around Tower and Ashbourne House was set up. Unfortunately other issues with the blocks remain and further investigations on all works required and the financial viability of these works is now taking place for a future report.
To tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime mobile cameras were deployed within Broom House.
- 5.5 Undertake a further 50 gating projects for alleyways and other problem land
Alleygating remains popular with local residents as a method of tackling anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.
In total this year there have been 65 alleygating requests.
Of these, 20 are new requests recently received, 10 are consultations in progress, 22 are underway, and 13 projects have been completed. So in total, 45 are done or underway and 20 being begun.
- 5.6 Install CCTV cameras in neighbourhood hotspots and ensure CCTV helps to reduce crime
This year there has been new CCTV in Colnbrook, 32 new hi-definition cameras in Herschel Car Park, 16 new hi-definition cameras in public areas at St Martins Place and 32 new cameras planned for Hatfield car park this month (March).
For the first time the council released CCTV pictures of flytippers as a public appeal for information; directly leading to enforcement action being taken against the offenders.
To tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime mobile cameras have, this year been deployed to Spitfire Way, Lismore Park, Farm Lane, Long Readings Lane and Broom House.
Decommissioned cameras where no longer required have been recycled to new areas and new cameras installed in Chalvey.
Two CCTV operators have received awards for work on a local police operation tackling prostitution and in the past year CCTV recorded more than 4,160 incidents and provided police with 513 DVD evidence packs to use in prosecutions.
- 5.7 Clean up and bring back to viable uses council garage courts that are neither useable nor redevelopable – installing new, wider garages, demolishing garages and laying out areas as open parking or cleaning up the land and piloting some key sites as micro allotment plots for residents
Three pilot projects have been completed; Winvale, Franklin Avenue and Maryside. In each area, old, dilapidated and too small garages have been replaced with double-wide, two door garages.
The unique design of the double garage means residents are now able to park their vehicle to one side with still enough space to open their car doors (without cracking the door against the garage wall!) and the other side is still available for either a second car or storage for items that do not fit in the users home.
Security was also increased at Winvale with the installation of ornate railing and a key code entry system, the area was retarmacked and numbered parking bays laid out for other residents.
New areas for similar work are now being looked at following the success of the pilot projects.
- 5.8 Extend Slough's bicycle hire scheme – installing new cycle hire ranks in Langley St Mary's, Langley Kedermister and Colnbrook wards
By end of March 2015 there will be new cycle hire ranks at Harrow Market, Trelawney Avenue and the junction of Sutton Lane with the A4 London Road.

5.9 Plan to the delivery phase of a halt railway station in Chalvey and direct western rail access to Heathrow

Western rail link to Heathrow adopted by Network Rail as a project, consultation currently taking place.

As part of Network Rail's electrification programme the Slough-Windsor line will be electrified and four-carriage trains will be operating – effectively doubling the capacity on this line. As part of this, a bid for funding for the feasibility study into the Halt has been submitted to the TVBLEP and we are awaiting the outcome.

5.10 Plan a guided bus scheme for the A4 as well as delivering congestion busting and bus priority measures for major roads including Bath Road, Stoke Road and Farnham

SMART A4 bus project approved by cabinet and work is due to start summer 2015. Major road improvements to A355 and A332 approved and work is due to start summer 2015.

Bus priority measures are now in place on Farnham Road and new variable message signs across the town are helping to improve driver information.

5.11 Make further junction improvements and continue to upgrade traffic signals to tackle rat-running and speeding and to add capacity to the roads in Slough most affected by peak time congestion

Signal improvements have taken place at A4 junctions including: Huntercombe, Tuns Lane, Tesco, Langley Road, Upton Court Road, and High Street Langley and A355 junctions including: Whitby Road, Buckingham Avenue and Sheffield Road. Improvements to traffic signals at A4 junctions Lascelles Road and Twinches fully planned.

SCOOT (intelligent traffic light system) now in place on A355 Farnham Road and B416 Stoke Road.

5.12 Continue introducing safe routes to school and measures to tackle full-pavement and obstructive parking

Following the Central ward pavement parking ban introduced in 2013/14, designs have been drawn up for Wexham, Chalvey, Elliman and parts of the borough now in Central after the boundary changes.

Ward boundary changes have caused some delays but this larger area is expected to be rolled out during the summer and autumn 2015.

5.13 Improve footways with ongoing resurfacing and action to tackle poor works by private utilities and cable companies that erode pavement quality

The new permit scheme approved this year will give council greater control over companies working on the highway and pavements.

The length of footway being resurfaced in the 2014-15 financial year is 7,313.2m (23,993.4 feet or 4.54 miles).

Sampling of reinstatements of pavements by private companies and monitoring of their performance has continued with work focusing on the worst offenders.

Inspections are taking place proactively (planned) and reactively (following complaints).

5.14 Bring in higher specification standards for footways around sheltered housing schemes and GP practices

Proactive sampling is now taking place at key points to ensure the surface is always of a high standards at these key locations.

- 5.15 Ensure fully-costed, deliverable plans are in place to meet growing demand for school places locally
School places have been expanded this year at both a primary and secondary level including at Lynch Hill Secondary, Langley Academy Primary and Ditton Park.
- 5.16 Ensure more Slough residents with learning disabilities can continue living in Slough to receive the housing care and support they need
So far this year 15 people with a learning disability have moved into supported accommodation from traditional residential settings and a further 13 people are planned to move during next financial year.
Other people not moving will have their care costs reviewed to ensure these meet industry standard best value pricing tools.
This particular initiative will contribute a further £1m of efficiency savings in 2015/16 on top of the £1m already achieved over the past two years.
This means that, not only has the council supported people with complex needs to move from institutional care to be living as part of the community, it has also used council funding in a more efficient way.
- 5.17 Extend the chapel at Slough Cemetery and Crematorium to accommodate larger services and meeting the needs of our communities and provide additional capacity at the cemetery with new burial plots
500 new burial plots were marked and opened in August 2014 within the existing grounds of the cemetery and plans are in place for an area of land to meet future needs.
The extension to the chapel has been modelled and residents have been consulted. Now awaiting cabinet approval for extra spend on the extension project which is contained within the financial reports.
- 5.18 Ensure the borough has a leisure centre and ice arena fit for the next 25 years – with these facilities of a flagship standard and available for use by 2017
Full report to implement the borough's leisure strategy and develop the new facilities planned is being tabled at March cabinet.
- 5.19 Make major improvements to Baylis Park and Godolphin Recreation Ground; ensure we do more to develop new habitats for wildlife in our green spaces; step up action against verge parking
Work has been undertaken this year to the Long Garden and memorial garden in Baylis Park. Designs for both parks have also been completed following consultation with councillors and the community. The plans include major improvements to the Baylis pond, pathways, planting and improvements to sports facilities and play in Godolphin. Work is being priced and will start during the spring. To help prevent verge parking the following has taken place this year:
- new on-street parking bays on Moreton Way, Cippenham Lane, Ullswater Close, Marecroft Road, Hawthorne Crescent estate and Northborough Road
 - grass-crete protection on grass verges in The Link, Hawthorne Crescent estate and Prestwood
 - verge protection measures on A4 London Road, Trelawney Avenue, Spencer Road, Penine Road, Maryside and Lismore Park
 - parking protection bund on Uxbridge Road from Broadmark Road to traffic lights
- 5.20 Plan works to upgrade and reshape Bowyer Recreation Ground, the canal basin and canal side in SBC ownership
The council is working with Slough Regeneration Partnership to develop proposals and a master plan for this area.

- 5.21 Deliver our commitment for a new ground for Slough Town Football Club
Detailed plans for community sports facility at Arbour Park drawn up and granted planning permission on 17 February with works to be carried out during the spring and summer.
- 5.22 Improve Preston Park in Wexham and Harvey Park in Langley
Plans for both parks have been drawn up in consultation with local members who are consulting their local residents. Meeting with ward councillors this month (March) to decide exactly what will be taking place.
- 5.23 Deliver a games area in Colnbrook
Westfield Community Centre play area completely refurbished including games area.
- 5.24 Secure planning approval for hub community centre proposed for Elliman / Central / Wexham and for Langley; move forward plans to upgrade/expand the hub in Manor Park
A report on the progress of the proposed Langley hub and housing development due to come to cabinet in June 2015.
A full master plan for redeveloping the canal basin is being prepared by the Slough regeneration partnership with a community building for Elliman / Central included in the plans.
With the new leisure strategy setting out what facilities will be provided at The Centre, plans to develop and improve the community facilities on the Manor Park site are being prepared – as now can ensure no duplication of provision of sites in close proximity.
- 5.25 Make further exterior improvements and upgrade the communal areas of council-owned blocks of flats; upgrade/redesign poorly-planned past housing schemes to improve local neighbourhoods
A pilot project has been initiated around Eyre Green in Britwell which has included external insulation on flats, opening up entrances and installing ramps, additional lighting, relocation of bin stores, improvements to pathways, fencing and landscaping.
All work has been planned and undertaken in consultation with secured by design and Thames Valley Police's architectural design consultant.
Other areas for similar work are now being considered following the success of the pilot project and feedback from residents.
- 5.26 Further improve local housing supply by bringing 60 empty homes in Slough back into use
An investigation into empty housing issue found very few empty properties in the borough with Slough well below the national and regional average for empty homes. However, work on illegally sub-let council properties continues with 30 properties returned to the council and relet to households in genuine housing need; a saving to the council of £500,000.
- 5.27 Build or start the construction of 200 new council homes
77 new council homes have been completed or are under construction in Britwell. At Wentworth Avenue we have provided a mix of two, three and four bedroom family homes, adding to those already built on the site of the old Jolly Londoner public house and Newbeech House.

Further council homes are under construction at Kestrel Place alongside properties for registered social landlords.

23 council homes are forming part of the redevelopment of Ledgers Road which has been granted planning permission with work expected to start on site this spring.

34 council homes also form part of the Slough Regeneration Partnership plans for the Wexham site which received planning permission in February.

We will also be bringing forward a number of infill sites over the coming months which will deliver further council homes.

5.28 Use council investment and our development partnership to commission additional housing for the borough.

Slough Regeneration Partnership is due on the Ledgers Road site in April 2015.

The Wexham housing site received planning permission in February 2015 and plans are advanced.

New homes directly commissioned by the council have been completed in Wentworth Avenue.

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

This report has not been considered by any other committees.

7 **Conclusion**

The work on manifesto pledges adopted by Cabinet in June 2014 has been extensive and has met the aspirations of the pledges wherever possible.

8 **Background Papers**

None.