

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet **DATE:** 14 March 2016

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**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** All

### **PART I** **NON-KEY DECISION**

#### **MANIFESTO UPDATE FOR PLEDGES 2015/2016**

1 **Purpose of Report**

To inform cabinet of the council projects undertaken following adoption of the manifesto in June 2015.

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 2015 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.

3b **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

This report and the projects detailed contribute to all the following outcomes from the Five Year Plan:

- Slough will be the premier location in the south east for businesses of all sizes to locate, start, grow, and stay
- There will more homes in the borough, with quality improving across all tenures to support our ambition for Slough

- The centre of Slough will be vibrant, providing business, living, and cultural opportunities
- Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley
- More people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs
- Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances
- The Council's income and the value of its assets will be maximised
- The Council will be a leading digital transformation organisation

#### 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

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
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 22 June 2015.

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

5.3 Continue to supply new social and affordable homes; reduce waiting times for local people to access decent housing.

New social housing has been provided as part of the Kestrel Place development in Britwell and 23 new units are planned as part of the Milestone development in Ledgers Road with further shared ownership and affordable options available in the development. 15 properties have been returned to us thanks to fraud investigations and the new incentive scheme giving 'money to move' has encouraged 20 under-occupying tenants to move to new accommodation releasing 30 bedrooms. We have also re-housed 78 tenants from the low-quality Tower and Ashbourne blocks to make way for new social housing development.

5.4 Work to secure sufficient school places to meet local need and work with our partners to reduce the number of young people not in education employment or training.

Over the past year, we have invested £6m in new school places and £2.6m on improving existing school buildings with 900 more pupils being provided with a school place. We have also run 150 job clubs, 500 information, advice and guidance interviews, three business academies, tailored sessions for lone parents and construction pathway training for 16-24 year olds.

5.5 Plant 150 more trees, step up action against flytipping and continue investing in environmental improvements to further improve local neighbourhoods

150 more trees have been planted across the town. In addition, trees which required removal due to major gateway works at the Copthorne Roundabout and along Tuns Lane have been successfully moved to new homes in Langley.

Environmental improvements undertaken include fencing and alleygating of flytipping hotspots, new on street parking bays, verge protection and green space protection.

5.6 Make major investment to improve Kennedy Park, Baylis Park and Godolphin Recreation Ground

More than 80,000 has been spent at Baylis and Godolphin parks on improvements including:

- draining the pond, clearing of all silt and rubbish and given new banks, islands and trees before being refilled
- resurfaced paths
- replanted beds, borders and walled rose garden
- new seating, toddler play equipment and gym apparatus
- CCTV cameras
- repaired and refurbished war memorials
- a tidier Lido walled garden
- improvements to entrances.

Work on Kennedy Park, as part of the Britwell regeneration is underway.

- 5.7 Plan and move through to construction a new fit-for-purpose leisure centre for Slough at The Centre site on Farnham Road  
Plan for new leisure centre, along with community sports facility and refurbishment of the were Ice Arena agreed at January cabinet. Planning applications will be submitted and work will commence in the new financial year.
- 5.8 Start construction of new community sports facilities at Arbour Park, Stoke Road – fulfilling our promise to get Slough Town FC a new ground back in Slough  
Work started on site at Arbour Park in November on the community sports pitches  
Work started with turf being laid on an area of land which will be come the new playing field for St Joseph’s school with work on the community sports facility starting directly when the turfing was complete.
- 5.9 Continue improving smaller local parks and open spaces around the borough making these hubs for fitness and exercise to improve residents’ health – to get more people more active more often  
A tender has been awarded to and the following improvements are due to take place this month (March) and in April:
- refurbishment of the skate park, parkour and tennis court at Salt Hill Park
  - outdoor gyms at Salt Hill, Kedermister, Upton Lea recreation ground and Upton Court Parks and at Cippenham Recreation Ground
  - fitness trails at Harvey Park, Godolphin and Crown Meadow
  - trim trail at Buttermere
  - refurbishment of multi-use games area at Cromwell Drive
- 5.10 Deliver the next phase of Chalvey’s regeneration and produce a regeneration plan for the Canal Basin and Stoke Road  
We are working with the new owners of the Cross Keys site to bring forward a plan for redevelopment, work has started in February on the redevelopment of the old petrol station site on Chalvey Road East. Planning permission has been approved in June 2015 for the development of a new doctors surgery on Chalvey High Street, with work expected to begin on site in April. Proposals are being prepared for a 98-home development on the Montem site.  
Detailed plans for the Canal Basin have been drawn up by Slough Urban Renewal and will be brought forward during the coming financial year.
- 5.11 Develop detailed plans for new community hubs – to serve Central, Elliman and Wexham wards; to serve Manor Park and to serve Langley at Trelawney Avenue  
The plans for the hub at Trelawney Avenue are advanced. We are working with Slough CCG to deliver a mixed use development that will include a community hub and housing for rent. The hub proposals will include a GP practice, pharmacy, dentist, housing services, library and police station - a report is on tonight’s agenda. Central ward will be served by our new arts, cultural and learning space, The Curve, and our new community sports building at Arbour Park containing community hub facilities will serve the wards of Wexham and Elliman. Further services/facilities are likely to be provided at Wexham Court Parish Hall site following discussions with the Parish Council
- 5.12 Improve key crossing points, routes and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists around the borough and further expand Slough’s bike hire scheme with more bikes and additional cycle racks for significant areas not yet covered

This year we have purchased 20 new bikes and put in three new docking stations at Harrow Market, Trelawney Avenue and Sutton Lane.

The cycle hub has opened offering cheap secure cycle parking and associated facilities next to Slough Railway Station.

Plans are underway to consult on a northern cycle route to link Huntercombe Lane with Burnham Lane as part of a wider scheme to link cycle routes in Slough and Maidenhead.

5.13 Upgrade all Slough's streetlights, fitting new LED heads, to be more energy efficient, reduce light pollution and make our streets feel safer

Funding for the major project to replace all streetlights with LEDs has been secured, the tender for work awarded and work is anticipated to start in April.

The LED lamps will dramatically reduce the electricity consumption of the borough's streetlights, offer digital fault reporting, reduced maintenance and much improved lighting for residents and drivers.

5.14 Deliver further CCTV cameras and continue gating problem alleys to make public areas more secure

86 new cameras have been installed this year including in the town centre car parks and in Wexham, Cippenham and Britwell. Three new 3G/4G redeployable cameras have been ordered – one for each of the borough's community safety areas.

The introduction of improved and comprehensive CCTV was key to the town centre car parks gaining the coveted Park Mark award for quality and safety.

Alleygating and fencing of flytipping hotspot areas has taken place with one major project at the rear of Canterbury Avenue which has made a significant difference to the feel of the public pathway.

5.15 Provide more speed-activated road safety signage, to bring down speeds on 'hot-spot' roads

New electronic speed-sensing signs have been ordered and are expected to be in place in the new financial year.

In addition, five of the main light controlled junctions for red light jumping and green light speeding now have enforcement camera sites.

5.16 Open Slough's new town-centre library, learning and performance space, The Curve and plan our to final development the final corner-stone sites of the Heart of Slough regeneration; exploring options to move council services and operations into the town centre

Construction of The Curve is broadly complete, with the exterior finished and fit-out underway. Relocation of the Registrars service has slightly delayed the opening since the last report. A new opening date is being planned in the new financial year.

Plans for the old library site are well developed and includes options which should move the main council headquarters into this site.

Plans are also underway for the old TVU site including a mixture of offices, leisure, retail and housing.

5.17 Improve Slough High Street, working with businesses to help refresh the retail offer, upgrade the public realm and pedestrian links; and develop a better early evening economy, with a great choice of cafes and restaurants

This year a new town centre manager has been appointed and the town centre partnership between the council, businesses and retailers has been reactivated. The Council is also working in partnership with developers through the Slough Regeneration Partnership to improve the retail offer and footfall in the town centre.,

The Council has also approved plans for 674 housing units through the redevelopment of the Queensmere shopping centre.

Work to improve the vitality of the town centre took place in the run to Christmas with events, activities, a semi-permanent market, festive fun weekend, marketing campaign and 42-foot Christmas tree. A range of activities will be promote the opening of the The Curve which will bring a performance space and evening events to the High Street.

Investigations are underway into the possibility of offering a residents' card giving discounts in the town centre and other facilities.

A deep clean of the High Street is also planned.

5.18 Produce detailed designs to upgrade entrance-ways and public space around Burnham and Langley rail stations to give passengers a better welcome

Burnham scheme has been give LEP backing and we are awaiting financial approval which is expected this month (March). The plans include upgraded ticket halls, new signage, road modernisation, improved parking, pedestrian facilities and wayfinding.

Langley scheme has been given LEP backing and financial approval is expected in July. The scheme includes improved parking, signage, pedestrian facilities, wayfinding, bike hire, environmental improvements, footway widening, improved access and internal refurbishment.

5.19 Continue improving entrance gateways to the borough at key routes to show visitors Slough is a place we take pride in

Four new Welcome to Slough signs are now in place on Burnham Lane, Stoke Poges Lane, Stoke Road and Slough Road (from Datchet) with old tired signs removed.

5.20 Continue our long-term plans to deliver modern, high-quality residential accommodation right in the centre of Slough – to ensure the town centre has a viable long-term future and prospers once again

Planning permission has been granted for development of housing above the Queensmere shopping centre and as part of the council's new strategic acquisitions plan, three town centre premises have been bought to gain income and open up new development opportunities.

5.21 Help more adults manage their own social care support with personal budget and direct payments for individuals to choose services to best meet their needs

More than 94% people have a personal budget.

And during 2015/16 so far an additional 152 people have been supported to manage their care and support needs via a direct payment.

A total of 344 people have received a direct payment so far during 2015/16 compared to 192 people at the end of March 2015.

5.22 Provide timely, focused support to the most vulnerable children and families in the borough and support more local residents with learning disabilities to live in their own homes

Since 1 October 2015 the Slough Children's Services Trust has been established with the council working closely with them to drive improvements to services to vulnerable children and families.

We have also gained funding from NHS England for six projects to transform child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).

During the last two years an additional 44 people with a learning disability have been supported to live in their own homes

5.23 Help older people to live at home after hospital discharges with better support from a coordinated re-ablement service

Slough continues to perform well with very small numbers of people being delayed in their discharge home either for health or social care reasons. For example for the last few weeks this has been 6 or 7 people – all with NHS reasons for delay and none for social care reasons.

The number of people supported out of hospital with the council's reablement service continues to increase.

129 people were supported out of hospital in the first 6 months of this year compared to 114 people for the same period last year – with on average over 94% of people still at home after discharge from hospital with support from this service.

5.24 Use our new public health powers to work to reduce health inequalities locally

Smoking cessation work proving successful with 971 residents having quit this year. We have also provided 3,168 Health checks to 40-74 year olds and provided 537 residents with long-acting reversible contraception.

The smoking cessation contract has been relet and there has been concentrated work with GPs on bowel cancer screening awareness.

We have also launched the Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) to reduce the risk of suicide among men

5.25 Continue to address poor housing standards in the private rents sector and helping residents reduce fuel poverty by accessing insulation grants and other measures that tackle health and other problems associated with cold homes

Over the past year we have inspected more than 1,620 private rented homes to check standards and given energy efficiency advice to more than 50 private households.

5.26 Transform digital access to council services; making it much easier for residents to find and submit information, get details about services and pay fees, bills and charges online

The digital transformation programme has been launched as outcome 8 of the five year plan, a new board is in place and a plan agreed.

The self service portal – part of the main council website – is proving popular as is the main online payments system. The e-forms system is being upgraded in the new financial year which will utilise an internal workflow system ensuring forms can be tracked efficiently and responses improved.

5.27 Manage the council's assets and corporate premises even more efficiently saving money for residents

The council implemented its Asset Challenge process in 2014 and aims to reduce expenditure on corporate property by £1.4m within 4 years through a combination of rationalisation, sharing and investment.

This is closely tied to the implementation of policies and practices aimed at home and flexible working.

To deliver the savings, the council will consolidate its corporate head quarters under one roof and share buildings with other public sector bodies to provide an integrated approach to service delivery.

5.28 Make Slough one of the first local authorities in the country to send 0 percent of its waste to landfill, by agreeing a new contract to divert our remaining waste

Over the past year there has been an ongoing reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill, where in some quarters we have met the zero landfill target (less than 1% sent to landfill). However, when the energy from waste plant is unavailable, the council continues to send waste to landfill. In 2015/16 it is expected we will send around 5 percent of waste to landfill – one of the best performances in the country. However we continue to ensure 'zero waste to landfill' is a key outcome and remains a driver for the new waste contract regarding the treatment of all non-recyclable waste in 2018.

5.29 Freeze council tax in 2015 and only raise council tax thereafter if required to protect specific services or to fund specific investment that benefits residents

Council tax was frozen for the financial year 2015/16. Council has recently approved a rise of 3.75 percent in council tax; two percent being for the adult social care provision expected by government, 1.3% for inflation (retail price index is currently running at 1.3%) and the remaining 0.45 will be used to protect key services from the savage government funding cuts.

5.30 Future-proof council services so they remain sustainable and resilient even in tough economic times

The council has a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year – and without making the swinging cuts to services seen in other areas. We have continued and are continuing to invest in regeneration, education, housing and economic development and are reshaping services using new models of delivery, whilst protecting outcomes.

5.31 Continue to offer leadership and direction to the council, to take the difficult decisions needed to transform our town; working every day to improve the lives and life-chances of all Slough residents.

Despite the large and late cuts to our budget, the Council continues to invest in Slough's future and take the strategic decisions which will allow the town to continue to grow and our residents to thrive.

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 2015 has been extensive and has met the aspirations of the pledges wherever possible.

8 **Background Papers**

None