

Meeting: Economic Prosperity Sub Committee

Date: 25th October 2016

Title: Coastal Regeneration Progress Update

Authors: Graham Sword & Julie Bews
Service: Business and Economic Development

Tel: 0191 643 6421/6428

Wards affected: Whitley Bay, Monkseaton North, St Mary's

1. Purpose of Report

To provide the Economic Prosperity Sub Committee with an update on progress on Coastal Regeneration in relation to the works included in the Whitley Bay Master Plan.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Sub Committees note the contents of the report.

3. Details

Tourism is recognised locally, regionally and nationally as an important economic sector in the UK.

Visitor figures previously reported have remained steady with North Tyneside continuing to attract around 500,000 overnight stays. International visits to the North East continue on an upward curve and during 2016 were supported by increased cruise trade into the River Tyne including visits for the first time by the Disney Cruise Line. North Tyneside continues to be ideally placed to benefit from international visitors with the close proximity to the airport and international ferry terminal in Royal Quays.

Coastal Regeneration remains one of the key priorities for the Council with the aim of providing a range of improvements and new facilities along the coast maximising the potential of our coastal assets for our residents, businesses and visitors. A number of improvements, as previously reported, have been completed along the coast including improvements to the public realm, new/extended car parking; refurbishment of Whitley Bay Playhouse and Waves which both continue to attract good numbers of visitors; restoration of Tynemouth Station, the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade and Old Low Light building at the Fish Quay which all provide enhanced visitor facilities in listed buildings.

The focus for coastal regeneration has moved from Cullercoats, where an extensive range of initiatives were completed including public realm improvements, traffic calming, young children's play area, new refreshment kiosk and improvements to the boat yard.

The main area identified for improvement is Whitley Bay seafront where the Master Plan for this area was adopted by Cabinet in March 2015. The area covered by this Master

Plan covers the seafront from Southern Lower Promenade up to St Mary's Lighthouse, with the main focus being around central and northern promenade.

At the heart of the Master Plan is the comprehensive restoration of the Listed Spanish City Dome which will see the building return, as far as possible, to its original 1910 layout with a preferred operator identified to run the complex on completion. The impact of this work and its reuse cannot be underestimated, the benefits to North Tyneside and the North East could be significant. The works have begun on site, it is anticipated that the Dome will be completed and open for spring 2018.

Other significant work on the Spanish City Island site centres around the construction of the new Premier Inn hotel and restaurant. Works are progressing well on site and the hotel and restaurant are scheduled to be completed and open for spring 2017.

The following presentation provides Members with details of works completed, underway and proposed in the Master Plan.

4. Background Information

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) Cabinet Report dated 16 August 2005 - Whitley Bay Regeneration
- (2) Cabinet Report dated 18 April 2006 - Spanish City Island/Whitley Bay Seafront Regeneration
- (3) Report to Cabinet dated 13 November 2007 - Whitley Bay Regeneration Update
- (4) Cabinet Report dated 8 March 2010 - Whitley Bay Regeneration Spanish City Development CPO
- (5) Report to Cabinet 11 October 2010: The Coast Strategic Regeneration Framework
- (6) Cabinet Report dated 11 April 2011 - Spanish City Development Opportunity
- (7) Cabinet Report dated 11 April 2011 - Spanish City Development Opportunity – Final Bid Evaluation Report (exempt report)
- (8) Cabinet Report dated 12th November 2012 - Coastal Regeneration report including Spanish City Progress and external funding (exempt report)
- (9) Cabinet report dated 8 July 2013 - Coastal Regeneration Strategy and Spanish City Island Regeneration
- (10) Cabinet report dated 10 March 2014 - Whitley Bay Seafront and Spanish City Island Regeneration Update and Compulsory Purchase Order (exempt report)
- (11) Cabinet report dated 12 January 2015 - Appointment of Contractor for Spanish City Dome
- (12) Cabinet report dated 12 January 2015 - Spanish City Dome Heritage Lottery Fund (exempt report)
- (13) Cabinet report dated 9 March 2015 – Whitley Bay Seafront Master Plan Update (13) Cabinet report dated 8th June 2015 – Spanish City Procurement.
- (14) Cabinet report dated 18 November 2015 – Spanish City Heritage Lottery Bid and Appointment of a Preferred Operator – Supplementary Report (exempt report)
- (15) Cabinet reported dated 9th May 2016 – Spanish City Heritage Lottery Bid