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Report Author	Rochdale South Township Committee Chair
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Report of the Rochdale South Township Committee Chair

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on recent activity relating to the Rochdale South Township.

Key Points for Consideration

Rochdale South Township Committee

Meetings have been held in August and September when members considered reports in relation to delegation arrangements and appointments, a review of Township Funds 2020/21, allocation of funds 2021/22, and the SPD for Castleton. Members also received a verbal report from Greater Manchester Police and acknowledged a petition calling for traffic calming.

Rochdale South Township Delegated Sub-Committee

Members have met and agreed a total of nine individual projects to be funded from the revenue and capital streams.

Community Safety

Balderstone Park/Library - Joint working took place with GMP and Youth Services on Action Day 1st Sept, identifying CCTV possibility on street column, and positive suggestions regarding defensive planting to help resolve issues of young people throwing missiles.

St Chad's Graveyard - Community Safety received a number of reports regarding ASB coming from St. Chad's graveyard, which were followed up by a number of visits to residents. It was reported that individuals were occupying the park throughout the day, drinking, dropping litter and causing noise nuisance. Lots of potential options were explored in regards to sorting the issue. A day of action was organised to include GMP, Turning point and community safety to attend the area and advise people of their behaviour. This piece of work is ongoing.

Mandale Park - Residents reported off road bikes riding through Mandale Park. Diary sheets were handed out and a meeting was organised with Environmental Management to look at potential access points for bikes. EM have agreed to put kissing gates on four of the access points and replace a gate on another access point. This should completely restrict bikes entering the park and almost solve the issue in its entirety.

Rochdale Town Centre - Outreach work has been conducted on a number of occasions with partners such as Sanctuary Trust, Petrus and the Place Team, offering help and support to individuals in Rochdale town centre. Numerous town centre meetings have been attended on a regular basis. These include Pubwatch, Shopwatch and the Monday morning town centre BID meetings.

Youth Service

Youth workers continue to offer various detached sessions in areas including Balderstone & Kirkholt, Castleton and Kingsway.

Throughout the summer holidays youth workers supported young people in Milkstone & Deepdish by engaging them in various projects including the 4 week Holiday Activities Fund programme of fun filled activities and lunch, and provided meals for young people in their communities in the evenings on detached sessions.



In all sessions staff have supported young people to overcome many of the difficulties caused by the pandemic. Youth workers have continued to support the mental health of young people via 1-2-1 work, door step visits, socially distanced walks and providing experiences within the sessions to promote positive mental health, teamwork, and confidence and self-esteem.

Staff have continued to support vulnerable young people within their wards. The Castleton youth session is very busy with 50+ young people attending each week.

Active Deepish Active Neighbourhood

Sustrans have been leading the Active Neighbourhood project, which is funded by the Mayors Challenge Fund where the movement of people has been prioritised and improving conditions for walking and cycling.

The approach aims to reduce car use for very short trips. The scheme is currently in the engagement phase, a survey was sent out earlier this year and there have been 3 online workshops. The workshops have been asking residents where the main cause of traffic has come from, any issues and suggestions on how to solve these. There is one final consultation in November, then the findings and data will be transferred to Rochdale Council who will decide what to do next.

Environmental Management

Working with Public Health on a scheme to improve Stoneyfield Recreation ground facilities. Also recovering decades-long derelict land at Jameson St in Castleton back to allotment land, orders for works raised were this week after lengthy community / Member consultations and land assessments.

Draft Rochdale Station Supplementary Planning Document

Following public consultation earlier this year Members of the Township Committee have been involved in work to review the public comments received and to request that changes to the plans be made to maintain access for existing residents and businesses. I am pleased to confirm the Cabinet recently adopted these revised plans and look forward to working with the Portfolio Holder and the Greater Manchester Stations Alliance as we develop more detailed proposals and seek funding to support our plans for the regeneration of the station area.

Rochdale Riverside Retail & Leisure

The scheme completed as planned in April 2020 and although the Covid pandemic impacted on store openings, the scheme is now fully open. The recent announcements that New Look and Dunkin Donuts are to occupy Rochdale Riverside means that the scheme is now 92% let by floor space.

Upperbanks (Rochdale Riverside Phase 2)

Our plans to bring forward the 'Upperbanks' apartment and hotel scheme continue to make good progress. It is intended to make a start on site on the main contract in October 2021 with completion expected in late 2023.

Rochdale Town Hall & Town Hall Square

The Town Hall & Town Hall Square restoration project is now underway and work is progressing well. The first community project, the "Big Dig", saw 1200 volunteer participants join the work on site. A community cabin has been opened to the public where visitors can learn more about the on-going work.

Fire Service Museum

The new Fireground museum opened in August 2021 following £1.9m investment from NLHF. An official opening is planned alongside the FireUp first floor co-working space later this year.

Township Committee Chair

Thank you Mr. Mayor, I will be pleased to answer any questions from Members of the Council about these or any other matter relating to the Rochdale South Township.