



Committee report

Committee	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGENERATION
Date	6 FEBRUARY 2020
Title	HERITAGE LED REGENERATION
Report of	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

PURPOSE

1. This report provides an update to the committee on progress in developing a Heritage led approach to regeneration on the Isle of Wight. The report also provides information regarding the UK Government’s support for Ryde and Newport High Streets on the Island under the Heritage High St action zone programme and the context for these in terms of the wider “Place plan” approach to regeneration being adopted in Newport and Ryde.

CONTEXT

2. The Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration has highlighted at previous meetings the significance of the Islands heritage in supporting the council’s regeneration objectives. The “Inspiration Island” Regeneration strategy (2019) contains a specific theme relating to harnessing the Islands Cultural and Environmental assets. In developing regeneration schemes, such as Newport Harbour, Heritage assessments, are key instruments for incorporating key features and reflecting Island history in future developments.
3. In June 2019 Historic England’s national advisory panel visited the Isle of Wight and provided in depth feedback on the heritage challenges and opportunities in Newport, Ryde and East Cowes. The panel’s feedback (key recommendations - Appendix 1) highlighted the potential of the main High St’s in Ryde and Newport in capturing local heritage in re-purposing the high streets in light of a diminishing retail offer. High St regeneration is a key priority of the regeneration strategy.
4. In July 2019 Newport and Carisbrooke council and Ryde town council submitted funding bids the UK Governments Heritage High St Action Zone programme (HHS AZ). Using the Historic England report as reference source both these bids were successful, the only council area to secure two successful bids to this

programme, leveraging £1m of government funding for Heritage led High St regeneration.

HERITAGE HIGH STREET

5. The HNSAZ project sits within a programme of regeneration for Newport called Shaping Newport – see Appendix 2. The Shaping Newport partnership was responsible for writing the Historic England bid which was submitted on behalf of the Newport and Carisbrooke Parish Council. Securing this funding is seen as the beginning of investment in heritage in towns on the island and in many other places that have successfully secured Historic England funding the town has gone on to receive further funding from various linked sources such as the Future High Streets Fund.
6. The HNSAZ Project is aimed to be complementary to the Shaping Newport actions that were recommended in response to the 2017 Shaping Newport survey. The outputs of the project align with the comments that were taken from stakeholders in the survey and therefore this demonstrable investment in the town will be invaluable in showing these stakeholders that their voices are listened to and the Isle of Wight Council is committed to progress.
7. In Ryde the project has been the catalyst for a wider “Ryde Place Plan” and seeks to address similar issues.
8. Overview of HNSAZ schemes drawn from the programme plans:
 - Shop front improvement scheme
 - Design code for retail units
 - Feasibility and Grant scheme to explore creating accommodation above retail units in the High Street
 - People First Zone (Streets for all style) improvements to St James Square and the area of High Street in Newport.
 - Improved public realm and traffic control in Upper High St, Ryde
 - Research on cultural led repurposing for historic buildings (possibility of setting up a “buildings trust” and feasibility studies for landmark buildings
 - Cultural Programme – a programme of cultural activity centred heritage to encourage greater use of the town centre for cultural purposes
9. Historic England have requested the initiatives progressed in Ryde and Newport over the next four years are shared with other towns across the island seeking heritage related regeneration benefits. The council’s regeneration team accepts this responsibility.

RECOMMENDATION

10. The committee is invited to note the HNSAZ projects and their relationship to the wider regeneration strategy and receive updates on progress as the projects are implemented from 2020 onwards.

[Appendix 1](#) – Historic Places Panel Review recommendations
[Appendix 2](#) – Shaping Newport Programme

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