

CABINET – 14 MARCH 2019

PQ 14/19 – Written Question from Gill Kennett, Freshwater Parish Council to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Business Development

QUESTION

“Given the need for regeneration why is so little proposed for the West Wight in the Isle of Wight Council Regeneration Strategy?”

RESPONSE

“Thank you for question. The draft regeneration strategy contains a specific section on area regeneration and the West Wight is identified as one of the regeneration areas.

We have been determined from the outset that our regeneration plans benefit the whole of the island and while there may not be any large-scale project in the West Wight such as we have in Newport, Ryde or the Bay this doesn't mean the area isn't any less important

The people of the West Wight told us what their priorities are for a better quality of life through the “Wight We Want” survey and the area workshops we've been holding over the last year. Our island wide approaches to delivering better housing, infrastructure and jobs will benefit people living in the West Wight.

Alongside this the local priority projects, being taken forward in conjunction with local project groups around

- improving access to GPs,*
- using the West Wight as an outdoor space for creative industries students from nearby universities, and the;*
- Newport to Yarmouth cycle way, all feature in the regeneration programme.*

It's worth mentioning the work we are doing with rural businesses based in the West Wight to identify their challenges that can be addressed through the regeneration programme, Rapanui's recent expansion plans, which we supported, are a great example for us to build on. Our success in accessing over £700k DCMS funding for full fibre in public buildings across the West Wight will make sure the area isn't left behind in achieving our Digital Island ambitions.

The fantastic environment and cultural heritage the West Wight brings to the party is a real asset in economic terms and will feature strongly in our future plans – the area is rural, resulting in its own quite distinct challenges and we will want to continue to work closely with the West Wight local councils in bringing forward a West Wight area regeneration plan, to capture all the effort the public, the private and the community sectors are investing to tackle the areas challenges, promote further investment and improve quality of life for all.”
