

## **REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH 2017**

Another busy couple of weeks for myself and the Regeneration team, working on some short, medium and long-term projects.

I got involved with the Spring Clean, first impressions count for visitors and potential investors.

Due to the council's successful Access Fund grant bid, I accepted the free invite to the inaugural Sustainable Transport and Health Conference in Bristol at the end of last month. Active travel and location of transport hubs are key to regenerating areas and I learnt of the concept of the smart city.

I attended the Solent LEP AGM, making sure the Isle of Wight's voice is heard. There was an interesting round table discussion afterwards which focused on the skills gap and it was interesting to hear that our Solent neighbours have similar issues on this theme. Having the fully funded CECAMM (Centre of Excellence for Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine) department at the Isle of Wight College is a great investment from the LEP and will lay the foundation for this important growing sector on the Island. If we can also create good quality residential accommodation for students then we can attract students from the mainland and abroad.

The relationship between planning and regeneration is absolutely crucial and we had a very productive meeting getting to understand what are the most pressing housing needs. I feel that in the future we may have to provide extra support in the planning unit to help progress the regeneration plans.

Early progress is being made for Sandown Bay and Newport Harbour plans as Sandown Town Council is now able to enter into discussions with a developer for a potentially exciting project for Sandham Gardens. The Harbour Revision Order for Newport Harbour has gone to the next stage of consultation. At Executive I was very clear that the estate should be kept together to allow development that will create a good income for the harbour to allow for its necessary upkeep and future investment. It really is the potential jewel in the crown for Newport and the Island as a whole and updating ideas for its ambitious, practical and above all viable development, in conjunction with all stakeholders, will be an early priority for the regeneration programme.

There have also been more meetings regarding potential regeneration schemes that have not previously been on our radar.

The leader held an excellent business meeting where we heard from the Isle of Wight branch of the Federation of Small Businesses, Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce and individual business about how they saw regeneration. There were some good ideas and it was felt that the council was really interested in the business community's views. A follow up meeting will be held in May.

**Councillor Julie Jones-Evans  
Executive Member for Regeneration**