

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No.04/21

Date: 29 June 2021

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose:

The Committee agreed that a Briefing Note be circulated setting out the projects/works to benefit from the £9.5 million award from the Future High Street Fund.

The Council was successful in the bid for £9,497,720 in Spring 2021, for 6 key projects in Chatham which will be completed by March 2024:

Healthy Living Centre

- Support the delivery of a Healthy Living Centre in the Pentagon Centre
- The purpose is to integrate key community health services in a visible, highly accessible location while supporting town centre diversification.

Innovation Hub

- Deliver an Innovation Hub in the Pentagon Centre
- Providing 5,285sqft of new workspace for local businesses
- Utilising vacant units in the heart of the City centre, to support start- ups in innovative, creative and digital sectors.

Mountbatten House Enablers

- The public realm improvements will include a new City Square and demolition of the bus station ramps, which will pave the way for new high-quality residential units that face Chatham's waterfront and integrate with new civic healthcare uses in the Pentagon Centre.

Brook Theatre

- Investment in the theatre to deliver new studio space
- This will create additional contemporary flexible workspace of 3,358 sq ft.

Former Debenhams Site

- Development of the site to deliver commercial use, as well as community and leisure uses, on the ground floor to encourage an active frontage

- Redevelopment of the former Debenhams site will enable the delivery of residential units above the ground floor.

St John's Church

- St John's Church is an underutilised asset at a key gateway into Chatham town centre
- It will be restored and redeveloped into a new co-working, conference and events hub, servicing existing and developing demand in the creative and digital sectors
- The Diocese of Rochester will be overseeing the delivery of these works; the Council will assist where appropriate.

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