

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Cabinet considers next steps for key projects to regenerate Sidcup

At its meeting on 9 April, Bexley's Cabinet will take decisions on two projects that are central to the Council's plans to regenerate Sidcup town centre.

Like many high streets across the country, Sidcup is being affected by the trend of people increasingly choosing to shop online and spend more time at leisure destinations. While recent investment by Bexley has improved the appearance of the town and played a part in the success of several start-up businesses, some empty shop units have started to appear.

"Our strategy is to diversify what the town centre has to offer, with less reliance on retail and more to attract visitors," said Councillor Louie French, Bexley's Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Growth. "Our aim in developing the old Blockbuster site and regenerating Sidcup Manor House is to make Sidcup an even greater place to live and visit, and where local businesses prosper and grow."

At its meeting the Cabinet will decide on –

- The granting of a long lease to a preferred developer to open the grade II listed Sidcup Manor House as a boutique hotel and spa subject to due diligence.
- The next steps in taking forward the co-location of Sidcup Library with a cinema and residential units on the site of the former Blockbuster store at 106 High Street and 1 Elm Road.
- Changes to the way car parks are managed in the town centre to accommodate people shopping, eating out or visiting the proposed cinema and Sidcup Manor House.
- The future of the current library site in Hadlow Road, the development of which would help fund the overall programme.

"The plans for Sidcup's brilliant library to have a brilliant new home are fully on track," said Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places. "Offering all it does now and more, with the ability to open

longer and into the evening to give more people the opportunity to use the library at a time that suits them in a modern, state-of-the-art home fit for the 2020s and beyond, is great news for the library, for library users and for Sidcup as a whole.”

Following two marketing exercises, the Council has identified a preferred developer for Sidcup Manor House and continues in close negotiation. In principle, it is proposing a multi-million-pound investment that would secure the renovation and long-term future of the historic local landmark. This would create a boutique hotel with a minimum of 42 rooms, a spa with a pool, two restaurants, two bars, a function facility and treatment rooms.

Consultation will take place on the planning applications required for each of the developments.

The draft report that the Cabinet will discuss is available online at <http://democracy.bexley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=149&Mid=28703>

Cabinet meetings are open to the public, are webcast live and can be viewed afterwards online at <https://bexley.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

The report to Cabinet includes computer generated images of the new cinema/library/residential development.

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