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Council to consult on multi-million pound scheme for Newport

Telford & Wrekin Council has announced a multi million pound scheme that would see Newport's main secondary school Burton Borough rebuilt on a new site by 2015.

The scheme, part of the council's Borough Towns Initiative, would also see a major supermarket development and the creation of a modern business park for Newport on land near Audley Avenue.

The plans are being prepared in partnership with developers Davidsons and St Modwen and will involve selling the current Burton Borough School site for residential development.

The Council says that it would require a multi million pound investment in the current Burton Borough School so as to bring to an acceptable standard. The school is currently not marked for a rebuild as part of the council's Sports and Learning Communities programme but is due to receive an extensive upgrade. However, the option to build a completely new school is now possible following discussions with the two developers for a wider regeneration scheme.

A major consultation will take place on the proposal during the summer ahead of a joint planning application, which is expected later this year.

Under the scheme, a new school with playing fields would be built on land bordering the A518 with the new supermarket development and petrol station next to this.

Land on the other side of Station Road bordering to the existing Audley Avenue Industrial Estate would also be transformed into a modern business park, providing much-needed new employment land in Newport.

Cllr Stephen Burrell, cabinet member for Children & Young People, said: "The scheme gives us a way of achieving what the people of Newport tell us is a key priority – a state of the art Sports and Learning Community to replace the existing Burton Borough School.

"This will also include new community, health and leisure facilities. This scheme is a way of us being able to provide such facilities which would otherwise simply not be possible in Newport."

Councillor Eric Carter, cabinet member for Housing, Regeneration and Prosperity, said: "These are massive and extremely exciting plans for Newport which will bring huge benefits and complement the £1.5m regeneration work we have already completed in the town.

"It's an extensive scheme that will provide a major boost for the town's economy and will we believe play a key part in creating and keeping jobs and business in Newport.

"This is absolutely key to ensuring Newport has a vibrant and sustainable future.

"We look forward to hearing people's views on the scheme when we hold an extensive consultation with residents to ensure that every voice is heard."

Telford & Wrekin Council will start the consultation on XXXX and it will run until XXXX. Further details on the scheme and how to give your feedback on it will be announced in the near future.

If the scheme receives planning approval, it is expected that the new Burton Borough School and the new food store would be completed by 2015.

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