

Swale Council picks consortium to redevelop Kent town

By Tom Campbell Tuesday, 15 February 2011

A consortium comprised of developer Cathedral Group, property consultancy Essential Land and fund manager Altyon has been chosen to regenerate the centre of a Kent town.

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The Spirit of Sittingbourne consortium is now set to work with Swale Borough Council to redevelop the centre of the town over the next five years.

The initial proposals for the scheme include creating a new square outside the town's railway station. The plans also involve establishing a cultural quarter with an eight-screen cinema and a civic quarter with a new health centre and library along with the existing leisure centre.

Spirit of Sittingbourne was chosen as development partner ahead of rival proposals from Spenhill, retailer Tesco's regeneration arm, and St James Investments.

The consortium said that the plans are focused on redeveloping the town centre as a whole. Architecture practice Studio Egret West will act as lead designer, architect, masterplanner and landscape architect on the development, it said.

Council leader Andrew Bowles said: "We will now sit down with the consortium and discuss the development agreement, the details of which will be released in due course."

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