

Public Document Pack



**Service Director – Legal, Governance and
Commissioning**

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Wednesday 23 February 2022

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

The **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **1.00 pm** on **Thursday 3 March 2022**.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view via the Council's website.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Muscroft', on a light-colored background.

Julie Muscroft

Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

The Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel members are:-

Member

Councillor Harpreet Uppal (Chair)

Councillor Gwen Lowe

Councillor Yusra Hussain

Councillor Martyn Bolt

Councillor John Taylor

Councillor Robert Iredale

Chris Friend (Co-Optee)

Eilidh Ogden (Co-Optee)

Andrew Bird (Co-Optee)

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Committee

To receive apologies for absence from those Members who are unable to attend the meeting.

2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 12

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 January 2022 and 8 February 2022.

3: Interests

13 - 14

The Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have disclosable pecuniary interests, which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items, or any other interests.

4: Admission of the Public

Most debates take place in public. This only changes when there is a need to consider certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual. You will be told at this point whether there are any items on the Agenda which are to be discussed in private.

5: Deputations/Petitions

The Panel will receive any petitions and hear any deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also hand in a petition at the meeting but that petition should relate to something on which

the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (2), Members of the Public should provide at least 24 hours' notice of presenting a deputation.

6: Public Question Time

The Board will hear any questions from the general public. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, questions should be emailed to executive.governance@kirklees.gov.uk no later than 10am on 2nd March 2022.

7: Update on the Huddersfield Blueprint including the Cultural Heart

15 - 30

The Panel will consider the report Update on the Huddersfield Blueprint including the Cultural Heart.

Contact:

David Glover, Senior Responsible Officer, Economy and Skills.

8: Work Programme 2021/22

31 - 36

The Panel will consider its work programme for 2021/22.

Contact:

Jodie Harris, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 6 January 2022 at 1.00pm

Present:

Councillor Harpreet Uppal (Chair)
Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Robert Iredale
Councillor Martyn Bolt

Co-optees:

Andrew Bird (Co-optee)
Chris Friend (Co-optee)

In Attendance:

Councillor Peter McBride, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
Councillor Eric Firth, Cabinet Member, Town Centres
Simon Taylor, Head of Town Centre Programmes
Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director, Development
Edward Highfield, Service Director of Skills and Regeneration, Growth & Regeneration

Observers:

Councillor Elizabeth Smaje

Apologies:

Councillor Yusra Hussain

1. Membership of the Committee

Apologies were received from Councillor Yusra Hussain.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 30 November 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Interests

No Interests were declared.

4. Admission of the Public

All items were considered in the public session.

5. Deputations/Petitions

No deputation or petitions were received.

6. Public Question Time

No questions were received from the public.

7. Small Centres Update

The Panel received an update on Small Centres Programme from Simon Taylor, Head of Town Centre Programmes, which provided information on:

- Background and recommendation to Cabinet in March 2021
- Progress on engagement through place standard exercise
- Progress on Master/Investment planning
- Anticipated Next Steps

The Panel noted that in March 2021 Cabinet considered a report which proposed investing in town and village centres outside of Huddersfield and Dewsbury. The report was based upon an initial investment of £10m across the district. The initial Cabinet report proposed that 4 key centres – Batley, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike and Holmfirth be the focus for the initial round of investment, each being allocated £1.5m.

The proposal was matched with clear processes to follow. The key elements were:

- Ward Members at the heart of the programme
- Place Standard exercise to be undertaken
- Investment/Master plan to be prepared for each centre with sign off by Strategic Director and portfolio holder
- Projects to a value of £1.5m were to be agreed.

In addition, the report set out the types of projects that could be funded. This included:

- Supporting retail, employment, community and local centre activity
- Sustainable travel and climate change measures
- Improved community safety
- Culture, art and leisure activities
- Public realm/landscaping, heritage, conservation and better design.

Simon Taylor informed the Panel that part of the process to assemble a programme of investment for each of the identified small centres was to undertake a stage of community engagement. To ensure this was consistent across all four centres the place standards tool had been utilised. The questions used were to help build up a picture across a number of themes which ranged from moving around, play and recreation, feeling safe and social contact.

The Panel was informed that as part of the process of developing projects and delivering the Small Centres Programme, Cabinet required master/investment plans to be developed for each of the four identified small centres and two sets of consultants had been appointed to take the process forward. Once the masterplan was completed it needed to be agreed by the Strategic Director and lead Cabinet portfolio holder.

The anticipated next steps were:

- To continue dialogue with Ward Members
- Complete Place Standard reports
- Develop and agree the investment/master plans
- Develop project ideas
- Move to Delivery phases
- Agree the approach for phase 2 funding

Simon Taylor explained that the other remaining £4m would be available to deliver changes in other town and village centres and a further Cabinet report would be required to outline how this would be administered.

The Panel noted that engagement through the place standard was a helpful tool in identifying priorities at a local level. However, in respect of the percentage of responses received from residents, and the quality of the engagement, the Panel raised concerns that the response rate was too low to be considered viable as a consultation. It was agreed that a recommendation be made by the Panel that requested a minimum threshold for consultations/engagement to be deemed of an acceptable standard.

Simon Taylor advised that a low response rate had been received partly due to Covid-19 restrictions and the way some of the exercises had taken place, and partly due to other approaches that had been taken in town centres. Simon Taylor confirmed that he was guided by the Citizens Engagement Team and would raise the concerns of low percentages, along with the comments received from the place standard exercise, with the Citizens Engagement Team.

Councillor Peter McBride, Cabinet Member for Regeneration responded to agree with Panel Members concerns about the engagement, commenting that the response rate was unsatisfactory and rendered it meaningless. It was highlighted that this was partly indicative of the Covid-19 pandemic but also indicative of the real need to improve the approach to public consultation going forwards.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding the cost of the consultants appointed, Simon Taylor advised that a tendering process had taken place and the cost was competitive. It was explained that he did not have the exact costings of the additional resources at the meeting but was able to provide the panel with the information at a later date.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding signing off the master/investment plans and who this would involve, Simon Taylor advised that the Cabinet report in March 2021 had set out how the investment plans would be signed off.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding milestones and how this could be set out, Simon Taylor advised that he required a team to work on the project and was in the process of recruiting staff, a Team Leader had so far been recruited and when they were in place a more tangible program could be put in place.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding the 14 themes from the Place Standard exercise and an understanding of all the themes, Simon Taylor advised that he would speak with the Engagement Team and liaise with Andrew Bird separately to go through all the technical details.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding Ward Members being part of the decision making, Simon Taylor advised that Ward Members were a valuable source of information in their own communities and would be instrumental in helping to progress projects that were selected. Simon Taylor was confident that communities and Ward Members were listened to and that the plan put forward for sign off was right for all involved.

RESOLVED:

That the panel noted the update and thanked officers and Cabinet Members involved in the process. It was also agreed that:

1. The continued involvement of Ward Councillors be ensured through out the process.
2. Simon Taylor would liaise with Andrew Bird, Panel Member Co-optee, on the technical details of the 14 themes of the Place Standard Exercise
3. Simon Taylor would liaise with the Citizens Engagement Team regarding the Place Standard exercise. This maybe an area that the Committee does further scrutiny on.
4. A rational and definition of the places agreed for small town funding be provided to the Panel.
5. Work should be undertaken to set a standard that should be met to ensure effective and meaningful engagement/consultation with the public such as the possibility of setting a minimum threshold for the number and quality of responses.
6. That an update to scrutiny (prior to next the Cabinet date) and a project milestone programme be provided to the Panel.
7. That the costings of the additional resources (e.g., consultant costings) be provided to the Panel.

8. Work Programme 2020/21

The Panel considered the work programme for 2020/21 municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year be noted.

Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 10.00am

Present:

Councillor Harpreet Uppal (Chair)
Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Robert Iredale
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Yusra Hussain

Co-optees:

Chris Friend (Co-optee)

In Attendance:

Councillor Peter McBride, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
Councillor Cathy Scott, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Housing and Democracy
Edward Highfield, Service Director of Skills and Regeneration, Growth and Regeneration
James Hopton, Intelligence and Insight Lead
Vina Randhawa, Active Citizens and Places Manager
Emily Parry-Harries, Head of Public Health

Apologies:

Andrew Bird

1. Membership of the Committee

Apologies were received from Andrew Bird, Co-optee.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting/AOB

The Panel considered the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6 January 2022. It was highlighted that a recommendation in relation to improving engagement and consultation with the public had not been recorded under Item 7. It was also emphasised that the Cabinet Member had agreed with Panel members concerns about the approach to consultation and the low response rates and it was requested that this also be recorded in the Minutes.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the recording of the meeting held on 6 January 2022 would be checked and following any amendments made, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6 January 2022 would be put before the Panel for approval in the next meeting of the Panel.

3. Interests

Councillor Lowe declared an interest in relation to Item 8, as the Place Partnership Lead for Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw.

4. Admission of the Public

All items were considered in the public session.

5. Deputations/Petitions

No deputation or petitions were received.

6. Public Question Time

No questions were received from the public.

7. Kirklees Inclusive Economy Strategy Refresh

The Panel considered a report giving an update on the Kirklees Inclusive Economy Strategy Refresh presented by Edward Highfield, Service Director of Skills and Regeneration, Growth and Regeneration. James Hopton, Intelligence and Insight Lead and Councillor Peter McBride, Cabinet Member for Regeneration were also in attendance.

Edward Highfield gave a presentation which highlighted the key points in respect of:

- Kirklees's economic outlook and the national context, including the impact of the pandemic, increased cost of living, major inflation, inequalities, and Brexit.
- The reasons for the refresh: the 2019-2025 Strategy was within in time, but it was highlighted that the world had changed significantly since its introduction, and it was important for Kirklees to have a strategy that responded to the new local and national context with a strong locally owned set of priorities. The review of the local plan, was also likely to commence in 2022 and would be informed by Kirklees's economic ambitions
- The new opportunities for Kirklees, including devolution to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and in clean economic growth in line with the climate change agenda.
- Articulating clear links between the economy, communities and health and embedding this into the strategy.
- Strengthening the links between inclusion and growth: The Strategy would be renamed as the 'inclusive economic strategy' to emphasise focus on inclusive growth.
- The scope of the refresh: The strategy would set out the ambition for macro-economic growth, incorporating elements from the Local Economic Recovery Plan.
- The plans to leverage partnership arrangements with the Council's key anchor organisations.
- The output: the strategy would focus on a 10-year term but would also include a framework for action over a short term.
- Acknowledgment that the strategy would have multiple audiences that would require tailored outputs.
- The approach/timeline for the development of the strategy, including public and partner engagement, drafting and the formal governance processes with the aim of Cabinet/ Council endorsement in September 2022.

Cllr Peter McBride added that a refresh of Kirklees's economic strategy in response to the national context (i.e.- the Covid-19 pandemic, major inflation, and Brexit) alongside large-scale investments in Kirklees's town centres, was timely and essential to the evolution of the local economy and communities in Kirklees. He also highlighted that there were new opportunities in the Huddersfield University, and in the health industry both of which played a key role in supporting business, the local economy, and communities.

The Panel acknowledged that there were some challenges because of Brexit but highlighted the importance of identifying and utilising positive opportunities to enhance Kirklees's economy. Concerns were also raised about engagement with private sector partners highlighting that often-private business owners did not have the time to attend meetings for example. It was suggested that work be undertaken to rethink the way engagement with private sector partners was held to ensure fair representation of local growing businesses.

Responding to the Panel's comments on trade, Edward Highfield agreed that it was important to identify and build on the positives within the current economical context and that trade and export would feature predominantly in the final strategy. This could include utilising direct links to the subcontinent and encouraging more people to export. He did add however, that the numbers of businesses in Kirklees that had stopped exporting was a challenge. Edward also agreed that labour shortages, although currently problematic, may be able to provide people with more opportunities to find secure, high paid employment. Meetings with businesses had however highlighted consistent challenges in recruitment. In response to this, supporting people into employment through investment in skills and training would be a key element of the refreshed strategy.

In respect of consultation, the Panel highlighted the need to take a proactive approach to engagement offering several avenues for key stakeholders, including the public, to make their priorities known, and to encourage adequate response rates. Edward Highfield agreed and added that it important not to rely on Council meetings and the usual networks for engagement to ensure a good response rate from a variety of different stakeholders.

Responding to a question about guidance from consultants, Edward Highfield clarified that consultants would not be commissioned to write the strategy. On some elements of the strategy, academics had offered free support on the evidence base, and there was the option to commission some work around specific technical areas but only if required.

In response to a question about the timeline for the progression of the Strategy, Edward Highfield explained that the purpose of the update was to provide the Panel with opportunity for early input and confirmed that a further update to scrutiny would be provided in 2022 prior to presentation of the draft refresh strategy to Cabinet.

The Panel asked about how the strategy aimed to improve the interface between educational providers and local businesses, to enable people to gain the skills that local businesses required. Edward Highfield clarified that a key part of the strategy would focus on bringing educational providers and businesses together, rather than

them being separate entities, to create a more formal, joined up interface. He added that the approach needed to be employer led, and it was important to help businesses to articulate what they needed to ensure that the skills and education system responded. Investment in the labour market, skills and training also needed to be delivered in a way that was accessible to all to be inclusive, and it was equally as important to remove those barriers which prevented people accessing the labour market.

Cllr Peter McBride highlighted that inflation was one of the biggest barriers in enabling the poorest communities to recover from the pandemic, and it was important to address this. The Panel responded to add that there were key opportunities in apprenticeships and added that educational providers needed to be encouraged to realign their offerings to meet the needs of businesses in the growth industries in Kirklees.

The Panel raised the importance of making members of the public aware of the refresh of the economic strategy, highlighting that this may help people to feel more comfortable in their knowledge that the Council was doing something to address the economic challenges. It was suggested that the delivery of the webpage be accelerated to promote the refresh to the public, making the point that not all engagement needs to seek input, but can be equally as effective in enabling stakeholders to gain an understanding on the work that the Council is doing. In response, Edward Highfield reassured the Panel that he had taken on board their comments and suggestions about engagement, understanding the need to implement this earlier in the process to raise public awareness of the refresh.

Responding to a question from the Panel on levelling up, Edward Highfield highlighted that it was important to establish what Kirklees's priorities were so that when calls for proposals came Kirklees were driven by local needs. He explained that there were some key priorities set out in the levelling up white paper aimed at addressing inequalities in areas such as health and education etc... Kirklees would need to demonstrate how the economic strategy was delivering against those priorities to enable access to funding.

The Panel welcomed the focus on inclusivity and reducing inequalities in the refresh of the strategy. Further points were also made by the Panel in relation to the consideration of the West Yorkshire Fair Work Charter and how the Council will demonstrate dedication to being a fair employer when developing the refresh, and in relation to the review of the Local Plan adding that it was important to consider about how scrutiny will be involved.

Edward Highfield thanked Panel members for their comments and expressed confidence that several of the issues raised by the Panel around, apprenticeships, skills, trade, public consultation, and engagement with the private sector would be reflected on and addressed when the draft strategy returned to scrutiny later in 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the Panel noted the update, and it was agreed that:

1. It was important to identify and respond to the key opportunities and challenges of the current economical context when refreshing the strategy.
2. Opportunities in international trade, particular in direct links to southeast Asia in local communities, should be focused on in the refreshed strategy.
3. It was important to ensure effective engagement with different types of businesses, and to ensure a good balance between engagement with public and private sector partners.
4. Work should be undertaken to improve the interface between educational providers and local businesses.
5. Educational providers should be encouraged to align their offers to provide opportunities to enable people to gain the skills that local businesses required.
6. Effective communications and engagement with residents were essential and should be used to raise awareness of the refresh and to understand local priorities. This should start early in the process and continue throughout.
7. Opportunity to engage with all Councillors should be provided to ensure members have chance to contribute.

8. Place Partnerships Active Travel Progress Report

The Panel considered the Place Partnerships Active Travel Progress Report presented by Vina Randhawa, Active Citizens and Places Manager and Emily Parry-Harries, Head of Public Health. Councillor Cathy Scott, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Housing and Democracy was also in attendance and introduced the item, highlighting that the Place Partnership approach to working in places was crucial and timely following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Vina Randhawa presented an overview of the report and explained that:

- 7 Place Partnerships were established at Annual Council in May 2019, as a part of the Councils approach to Place Based Working.
- The approach involved a number of wards working together (3 or 4 wards per Place Partnership) to respond to strategic issues on a geography greater than a ward.
- A Place Partnership Lead Councillor had been identified for each geography.
- The Place Partnership Leads, working with Councillors and officers, used data, intelligence, and insight to propose interventions that will lead to better outcomes for communities.
- The 7 Place Partnership Leads also met regularly as a group along with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to share progress, discuss common themes and problem solve.
- After identifying their priorities for investment under a pre-established theme, the Place Partnership leads would refer their recommendations to the Cabinet.
- The Leads previously worked on improving mental health and domestic abuse outcomes, and for 2021/22 the theme was Active Travel.
- For the Active Travel theme, officers from a range of different services, such as Public Health, Major Projects and Street Scene had worked together to develop Active Travel Intelligence packs for each Place Partnership Lead.
- The information packs included health indicators, examples of best practice, summaries of planned schemes, place standard information, school travel data etc.

- The packs were circulated to the Place Partnership Leads who were briefed on the content and key indicators in their profile.
- This was followed by a meeting for all ward Councillors, via their Place Partnerships, to consider the profiles and to start to identify priorities and plan for engagement with the community and external stakeholders.
- Officers had also started to scope options around these priorities which were due to be discussed at the next Place Partnership meeting in February where the next steps would be discussed and agreed by Members.
- Evaluation was planned and built into all proposals recommended to Cabinet.
- Where issues were beyond the scope of the Place Partnerships the Leads were keen to ensure that they were elevated and reported to Council.
- A communication plan was being developed to help raise awareness and promote the work of Place Partnerships.

In the discussion to follow, the Panel raised concerns about the timings of ward councillor engagement meetings, highlighting that meetings should be arranged with consideration of other commitments members may have and ensuring that they do not miss their opportunity for engagement. Cllr Cathy Scott agreed to raise the issue with the Place Partnership Leads, highlighting that all members should be given opportunity to have their say.

In response to a question from the Panel about consultation and communication with the public, Vina Randhawa reassured the Panel that engagement was a key part of the process. It was also explained that during the next meeting of the Place Partnerships Leads, members would collectively agree the themes to explore further, and at this point public engagement exercise would be planned and supported by officers. Different ideas for ways to engage and communicate with the public had already been suggested such as drop ins and walks.

The Panel highlighted that in order to improve active travel in Kirklees, it was important to connect active travel routes across wards to create a coherent network which allowed people to move around the district without using roads. In response, Vina Randhawa agreed that this was a common challenge and advised that the Place Partnership Leads were keen where possible to elevate strategic priorities to the Council. Emily Parry-Harries, Head of Public Health added that it was important to identify the appropriate level to hold such conversations in order to achieve the best outcomes.

Further questions were asked by the Panel around the development and monitoring of active travel plans for schools highlighting that this was a common theme. In relation to , PROW improvements, the Panel highlighted that it was important not to mistake routine maintenance, such as clearing overgrown bushes, for improvement. It was important to put in place the same amount of priority and care into the maintenance and improvement of PROW as the roads.

The Panel also raised concerns about plans to enhance Canal towpath for the purposes of Active Travel, explaining that these were built for narrow boaters not for active travel and as they were not wide enough, would result in a conflict between users. The Panel further advised that it was important to make sure a proper legal agreement was established in relation to enhancing the canal towpaths that sets out

clear outcomes and expectations. Concerns were also raised about a wooden barrier on a greenway in Batley, as the same style of wooden barrier had been condemned in Bradley Greenway in 2007.

The Panel further raised the importance of encouraging safe walking and cycling behaviours, suggesting high-vis jackets, flashing tags on school bags and 20mph zones around all schools were suggested as possible measures. The importance of education about active travel and safe active travel in schools was also highlighted.

Vina Randhawa responded to agree with the importance of encouraging safe active travel and advised that behaviour change and safety in relation to Active Travel was being explored as a part of the overall programme. Information surrounding behaviour change and best practice examples were included in the intelligence pack provided to the Place Partnership Leads, and Vina further invited Panel members to share any other examples of safe active travel measures that they may be aware of.

The Panel raised concerns that there were some challenges in grouping some ward areas together as some geographies differed considerably in size and would require different solutions and the some grouping of wards didn't reflect the resident's sense of place. It was however acknowledged that such challenges may arise wherever a boundary is drawn. Emily Parry Harries responded to agree with the challenges of grouping the wards and highlighted the importance of having conversations at a local level to make sure communities feel that they and their priorities are being recognised.

The Panel also expressed their gratitude to Active Citizens and Places Officers supporting the work of the Place Partnerships. Emily Parry Harries welcomed Panel Members positive comments and agreed to give this feedback to the officers involved.

RESOLVED:

That the panel noted the update and thanked officers and Cabinet Members involved in the process. It was also agreed that:

1. It was important that engagement with members took place and Councillor Cathy Scott would raise the issue of making sure that all members have opportunity to attend engagement meetings with the Place Partnership Leads.
2. Members should also be proactive in responding to engagements and that written communication should be sent to all councillors to raise awareness.
3. It was important for a consistent approach to be taken across the district, by learning from good practice and sharing this across all the Place Partnerships.
4. Engagement and consultation with the public was important to understand priorities.
5. Encouraging safe active travel was important through behaviour change, by providing protective equipment/clothing and education in schools.
6. In respect of any geographical challenges, it was important to make sure that wards individual priorities were being listened through place-based conversations.
7. There were larger strategic issues identified (such as creating a connected active travel network across Kirklees and maintaining funding for projects

longer term) and it was important that these issues be elevated to the appropriate level to achieve the best outcomes.

8. Clear agreements were required, which set out expected outcomes, when working with partners and providing funding.

9. Work Programme 2021/22

The Panel considered the work programme for 2021/22 municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme for the 2021/22 municipal year be noted.

KIRKLEES COUNCIL			
COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC			
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS			
Economy & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel			
Name of Councillor			
Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed: Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

- (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
- (b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



Name of meeting: Scrutiny

Date: 3rd March 2022

Title of report: Update on the Huddersfield Blueprint including the Cultural Heart.

Purpose of report: The purpose of this report is to give an update on the Huddersfield Blueprint programme as well as outline the progress of the Cultural Heart programme following Cabinet approval of the Strategic Outline Case (Gateway 1) on the 16th November 2021. Work on this is now progressing in preparation for Cabinet to consider the Outline Business Case in July 2022.

Cabinet had initiated the Cultural Heart programme with the Cabinet Approval on the 22nd June 2021 and progress has previously been reported to Scrutiny on the 7th September 2022.

The Cultural Heart programme will be presented to Cabinet at each of the Gateway stages for consideration of the proposals, to give direction and authority to proceed.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes Expenditure >£250,000
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Key Decision – Yes published 5/10/21 The 16/11/21 Cabinet Report had a public report with public Appendices 1 & 2 and private Appendix 3
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	David Shepherd: Cabinet report: 8th November 2021 Scrutiny report: 19th February 2022 Eamonn Croston: Cabinet Report: 4th November 2021 Julie Muscroft: Cabinet Report: 5th November 2021
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Cllr Peter McBride Regeneration Portfolio Holder, Cllr Davies – Corporate Portfolio holder

Electoral wards affected:	Newsome
Ward councillors consulted:	No
Public or private:	The 16/11/21 Cabinet Report for the Cultural Heart had a public report with public Appendices 1 & 2 and private Appendix 3

Appendices to the Cabinet Report are set out below.

Public:

Appendix 1, Strategic Outline Case (SOC) redacted with 1 of 9 Appendices attached.

Appendix 2, Sustainability Strategy, individual's names have been redacted.

Private: Appendix 3, Strategic Outline Case with 9 of 9 Appendices.

In the public report a redacted version of the SOC is attached at Appendix 1. The redactions have been made as the redacted information contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of third parties. It is considered that disclosure of the information would adversely affect those parties and therefore the public interest in maintaining the redactions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The SOC Appendices (B – I) contain sensitive information and information relating to the financial and business affairs of third parties. It is considered that disclosure of the information would adversely affect those parties and therefore the public interest in maintaining the redactions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Access to the Appendices B-I can be provided to council members on a confidential basis on a request being made to the Contact Officer in Section 8 of this report.

Where the SOC is referred to in the report it has been referenced as Appendix 1 (public) or 3 (private) depending on whether the reader has access to the public or private Appendix.

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1 Summary, Introduction and Context

1.1 Regenerating our Towns - Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint

Kirklees Council launched its ambitious Huddersfield Blueprint (“blueprint”) regeneration vision in June 2019. The blueprint is a ten-year vision to create a thriving, modern day town centre that will be accessible, busy, inclusive, family-friendly, sustainable and a safe environment that will maximise opening times.

Since its launch in the summer of 2019 the Huddersfield Blueprint has been the primary focus for the regeneration of Huddersfield town centre. This is complemented with programmes of regeneration in Dewsbury through the Dewsbury Blueprint and the Dewsbury Town Deal. In addition, programmes are being developed in other towns in Kirklees through the small centre initiative.

Huddersfield Blueprint remains the largest of the Council’s ambitious plans spanning the next 10 years and several key programmes and projects have been progressed during the latest two and half years. The largest of these initiatives is the Cultural Heart and the next stages for this is set out in detail in detail in this report.

Of particular importance is how Huddersfield Town Centre adapts and responds positively post covid, particularly the changing needs and aspirations of the town center’s catchment population. The shape of our town centre will be different in the future with more focused retail, increased leisure, greater accessibility and more green and open spaces with flexible uses.

Since its launch Huddersfield Town Centre’s future has been bolstered by the inclusion of the University’s National Health Innovation Campus at the Southgate site and the announcement of the Transpennine Rail upgrade. This report sets out progress being made on of key projects and programs within the blueprint with a second section dedicated to the Cultural Heart in more detail.

SECTION 1

1.2 Core Blueprint Projects and Programmes

The following core projects and programmes are also summarized in the sections below as these are being developed and managed towards delivery. These are:

- George Hotel
- Northumberland Street Regeneration Project
- New Street including Huddersfield Market Decant
- Kingsgate cinema
- 103 New Street
- Bus Station
- Station to Stadium Enterprise Corridor

1.3 George Hotel

The Hotel came into Council possession in 2020. Since that time work has taken place on the first phase of physical repair to the building to ensure that it is watertight and is fit for the next phase of development. The project is complex and due to be completed by January 2023. At that point the building will be ready for the re-development phase.

The main objective is to secure the most sustainable long-term future for the building. To achieve this alongside the phase 1 physical work, work has been progressing with a specialist Development Manager to identify an optimum use and offer for the building that is attractive to the market. This includes early engagement with hotel operators.

To be attractive to a quality hotel operator current specialist advice identifies the need to increase room numbers and sizes; deal with accessibility issues throughout the building and ensure the food and beverage space can be maximized. Clearly, the listed status of the building is also a major consideration so work has been undertaken with conservation architect with experience of hotel development.

The next stage of this work will be to develop a final design for the new hotel. It is likely that a report will be presented to Cabinet in summer 2022 outlining a preferred design, costs and potential preferred operator. Ahead of this the concept will be marketed to the hotel sector during March and April 2022.

The program that has been set is aggressive with a planned completion and opening in 2025.

1.4 Northumberland Street Regeneration Project including Huddersfield Market

This project is looking at the existing Huddersfield Open Market area with a view to creating a destination at this end of town. This is intended to be the location of the future Huddersfield's market offer. The long-term vision for this was highlighted in the report to cabinet on 18th January 2022. The objective is to have a destination that is attractive to a wide audience and also support the business and commuter activity that is emerging in this area of town – see section on Station to Stadium Enterprise Corridor below.

A series of initial design options with a business case is being prepared and this project will be considered alongside other proposals for possible levelling up bids, should a further round be announced by Government.

The early program for delivery of this project is impacted by other works in the area particularly that associated with the Transpennine Route upgrade – also highlighted in the Cabinet report of 18th January 2022. It is unlikely that this project will be delivered before 2025.

1.5 New Street

The replacement of the public realm for New Street is already underway and has undergone consultation. The project envisages a revitalization of the street as a high quality pedestrian space with room for events and pop up stalls. The key feature is a series of tall structural planters.

Work to date has concentrated on investigating statutory undertaker apparatus and cellars in the area. The remainder of the construction work will commence in August 2022 with an anticipated end in January 2024.

1.6 Kingsgate Cinema

Through the Council's Property Investment Fund (PIF) the Council is working with the owners of Kingsgate Shopping Centre and the Light cinema group to bring a cinema into the town centre. This will be a valuable addition to the town centre's leisure offer and ensure a new family orientated attraction becomes embedded into the town

Planning permission is already granted and conditions associated with this are being discharged. The construction contract is currently being tendered by the owner of Kingsgate. Once a successful contractor is on board then the construction period will last 18 months.

1.7 103 New Street – Student Accommodation

Again, utilising the Council's Property Investment Fund this project will deliver approximately 120 student bedspaces in the former Co-op building. This project is nearing completion with scaffolding recently being removed. The current developer programme shows this project being completed for occupation in the summer of this year.

1.8 Bus Station

Huddersfield bus station improvement is part of the wider Transforming Cities Fund programme being delivered across West Yorkshire. The Council, working with the Combined Authority, are currently developing this project and business case. The current programme takes us to the submission of an initial planning application. The programme is:

- Outline Business Case (OBC) submission - April 2022
- OBC approval -- July 2022
- Consultation – Autumn 2022
- Planning -- December 2022

1.9 Town Centre Living

The blueprint's aim is to utilise heritage buildings to change and diversify the housing offer in Huddersfield TC and support wider town centre uses. In order to start a town centre living program officers are concentrating on buildings within public ownership. Primarily at this stage Estate Buildings and Somerset House. In terms of progress the following is relevant.

Estate Buildings – There is potential to provide around 30 high quality, well sized residential units. Scaffolding is already erected to allow wind and watertight works to be carried out. This is to be complete early in 2023 with a residential development to follow afterwards.

Somerset House - potential to provide around 15 high quality, well sized residential units - indicatively development taking place 2023-24

1.10 Station to Stadium Enterprise Corridor – including the National Health Innovation Campus

Since the launch of the Huddersfield Blueprint there have been a number of significant factors have affected this work. The first has been Pandemic, secondly the Transpennine Route Upgrade announcement and lastly, the sale of the former sports centre site to the University to deliver its National Health Innovation Campus.

These are all significant and create the ideal conditions for us to support wider regeneration in this area. To capture these opportunities, and start to plan ahead, the Council is embarking upon a master planning exercise for the future growth around the rail station, the Southgate site and land between Leeds Road, the Stadium and St Andrew's Road. The aim is to provide a planning framework to deliver regeneration based on high quality employment uses with Phase 1 of the concept being the National Health innovation Campus. This will give a focus for business and employment growth in that area.

A planned approach at this stage will be an opportunity to provide a platform after TRU is implemented to help shape the future for some of the towns underutilized assets bringing into focus assets such as the Station Warehouse and Crown House.

The work on the masterplan started in early February and will be completed in the summer of 2022. There will be stakeholder engagement associated with this work – early discussions have been held with some of these. It is anticipated that this approach will raise the profile of Huddersfield at regional level which in turn will attract further investment.

SECTION 2

1.11 Delivering the Cultural Heart Programme

The Council's vision is for a new Cultural Heart, to be built around the Queensgate Market and the existing library and art gallery buildings. The vision for the Cultural Heart includes the following:

- Events/live music venue
- Food Hall
- Museum and art gallery
- Town Park
- A new library
- Replacement Multi Storey Car Park (MSCP)
- Improved links to the University
- New Restaurants and bars

On the 16th November 2022 Cabinet approved the report 'Cultural Heart, part of the Huddersfield Blueprint – Gateway 1' (see section 8 for the report). The report set out the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for the Cultural Heart programme as the first step in the proposals and strategy for developing a robust master plan and Outline Business Case (OBC) at Gateway 2 (GW2), on an accelerated timescale with a target date of July 2022.

The OBC will follow the Green Book methodology (the Green Book is guidance issued by HM Treasury on how to appraise policies, programmes and projects) and will provide Cabinet with the appropriate information to determine the future direction of the programme beyond GW2 and ensure that Council resources are committed appropriately.

So that progress can be monitored and controlled the programme must come back to Cabinet at each of the gateways. At the moment the programme is only approved to

GW2. It is at this gateway that Cabinet will be asked to consider allowing the programme to proceed and commit to further funding.

The ongoing preparation of the OBC up to GW2 will take a significant amount of resource from the consultant team and support from Council staff over the remaining months to July 2022

1.12 Securing Appropriate Resources

The Strategic Development Partner (SDP) was appointed on the 5th July 2021 and brings together the necessary skills and resources to deliver the Cultural Heart programme. The SDP is comprised of the specialist disciplines that together with the designers are needed to produce the deliverables required for the SOC, and subsequently the OBC. The SDP brings the capacity and experience of similar masterplan scale programmes that was not available to the Council in house. Led by their Programme Manager, the SDP has been working alongside the Council, using recognised processes and procedures, to bring forward the Cultural Heart programme.

Funding totaling £6.55m from the Council's approved multi-year capital plan was approved by Cabinet on the 22 June 2021 to progress the programme to Gateway 2. This included Gateway 1 (SOC) costs of £1.99m, with a further £4.56m to get to Gateway 2 (OBC). The programme costs incurred to date are in line with the indicative cost profile above.

Appropriate levels of Council staff have been allocated to ensure that the programme is sufficiently resourced on the client's side, and this is monitored on a regular basis with Heads of Departments. A Programme Board has been established to provide governance and strategic direction for the programme, the chair for this board is the Strategic Director Growth and Regeneration.

A Technical and Quality group and a Master Plan group comprising mostly Council staff have also been convened to provide technical checks and balances at appropriate milestones for the work completed by the SDP, architect and engineers.

A Finance group, that is chaired by the Service Director – Finance, has also been established. This group will have responsibility for reviewing all costs and income associated with the Cultural Heart Programme, and maintains the overall financial model of the development, and to periodically update the Board as required. This will include initial oversight of operational cost review and development through to OBC, Gateway 2.

Internal Kirklees service department stakeholders were also identified by the SDP. These individuals have been consulted in a mixture of group and one-to-one sessions to define the requirements of the core elements that make up the Cultural Heart. A wider group of external end user stakeholders was also established to help refine the preferred option for the core elements and ensure their commercial viability as set out in the SOC report. Consultations will continue through the OBC and beyond and as part of the planning process.

2 Information required to take a decision

2.1 Background

The blueprint, and the part that the Cultural Heart plays in the aspirations, has been considered by Cabinet a number of times and the links to those reports are set out in section 8 of this report and are referred to when appropriate in this report.

Directly related to the delivery of the Cultural Heart was the purchase of the Piazza Shopping Centre, this was agreed by cabinet on 29th May 2019 and was a precursor to the blueprint launch in June 2019.

It is recognised that maintaining activity in and around the Cultural Heart throughout the lifetime of the programme will be important and therefore meanwhile uses will be encouraged. Also, the importance of maintaining a functioning town centre during the implementation phases is noted.

2.2 Items previously noted by Scrutiny

From Scrutiny on the 7th September 2021 the Panel noted the contents of the report and requested that the following recommendations be noted:

- In relation to sustainability and social values, the Panel requested that the correct metrics were put in place to measure outcomes.
 - Update. The sustainability strategy has been established but the formal sustainability targets have not been established yet, but they will be measurable.
 - Social Value Portal is being used for measuring, managing and reporting social value as laid out in the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.
- The Panel noted that it was important to focus on the development of sustainable travel options, such as active travel and EV facilities, but that there also needed to be adequate parking facilities to meet current demand.
 - Update. Traffic assessments will be needed for planning and EV facilities will be built into the parking provision.
- In relation to communications, the Panel noted that it was important to ensure the purpose and vision for the Cultural Heart was made clear to all stakeholders including those without internet access.
 - Update. Comms strategy includes engaging external agencies to help develop the strategy.
- The Panel suggested that engagement be undertaken with the following local groups: the Street Angels, the Visual Impairment Network, the Guide Dog Association and the Canal and Riverbank Trust.
 - Noted.
- The Panel requested that the link from the Lawrence Batley Theatre to the Cultural Heart was included in future reports.
 - Update. Links to LBT will develop with the design of the public

realm.

- The Panel noted the importance of elected accountability and scrutiny and agreed that quarterly progress reports be provided to the Panel.
 - Quarterly written updates with formal reporting in the middle of Gateways.
 -
- The Panel noted that consideration should be given to the issue of surface water in the early design phases.
 - Noted.
- The Panel suggested that the town centre is built and marketed in a way that encourages and attracts visitors to the surrounding towns and villages across Kirklees.
 - Noted.

2.3 Progress since Cabinet approval on the 16th November 2021

- The first meeting of the programme board was held on the 23rd June 2021. The meeting is chaired by the Strategic Director for Growth and Regeneration, and meetings continue monthly. The last meeting was held on the 31st January 2022. The next meeting is 23rd February 2022.
- The Cultural Heart programme started reporting monthly to the Regeneration PHB on the 18th May 2021. The last presentation was given on the 18th January 2022. The next meeting is 1st March 2022.
- A legal framework firm has been appointed to assist Legal Services with the appointment of consultants and contractors, to secure vacant possession of properties on the site and advise generally on other property related matters.
- Programme commencement with the SDP (Mace/T&T) was on the 5th July as planned.
- The architects (Feilden Clegg Bradley) and the Engineers (Arup) were successfully appointed during October 2021 as planned. Both these firms are of international repute. They were both appointed from the NHS Shared Business Services Construction Consultancy Services Framework following a competitive process where six architects and six engineers were invited to bid.

Initially the appointments are to OBC only with options to extend should Cabinet approve the programme to proceed beyond Gateway 2.

- The first target, GW1 the SOC Cabinet Report was achieved on the 16th November as planned.
- The architects and engineers RIBA Stage 1 report was signed off by ET, LMT and the Programme Board during January 2022 as planned. This is still early in the design process and is the stage where the designers familiarise themselves with the programme, review existing information, interpret, and confirm the brief with the Council. The proposals are subject to change as further design work progresses.

A presentation of the Stage 1 work will be presented at Scrutiny. The information and images and additional design work in the presentation are all subject to further sign off by Cabinet and subject to planning.

- The estimated construction costs for the programme have not varied from the £210m previously reported.
- The next target is GW2 the OBC Cabinet Report in July 2022. The ongoing work to achieve this includes:
 - Work towards RIBA Stage2.
 - Carry out periodical cost reviews and refinement of Development Capital £210m budget as the design develops.
 - Assessment of exclusions from £210m ongoing with Corporate Landlord and service teams in preparation for OBC.
 - Service teams reviewing FF&E, pre-opening and operational costs for staff and specialist support for OBC report.
 - Procurement of 3rd party Venue operator for sign off at OBC.
 - Procurement of comms agencies to work with in-house team.
 - Delivery schedule update for decant dates for Library, meanwhile uses and retailers, etc and enabling works including strip out and asbestos removal.
 - Ongoing stakeholder consultations with Council departments and the programme board to expand on the initial brief. Wider consultation will commence during this period.
 - The initial heritage impact assessments have been completed and discussions commenced with Historic England in developing the planning strategy. This work will inform decision making on the delivery process and design as the programme includes two Grade II listed buildings (library and Queensgate Market) and is adjacent to the conservation area.

Meetings are also being scheduled with Huddersfield Civic Society and the 20th Century Society.
 - Ongoing meetings with Kirklees planning team.
 - Negotiations are ongoing with existing lease holders of properties on the site and predominantly those associated with the Piazza Shopping Centre to free up the site for redevelopment. Third parties also have rights of access associated with the service tunnels under the site which will have some influence on the strategy associated with the tunnels. The Queensgate Market strategy has been developed with the retailers.
 - As part of the SOC a sustainability strategy for the programme was developed. This is being reviewed by the designers to start to consider the ways in which the aspirations will be incorporated into the design. This

will include how the programme can connect into the proposed town centre heat network and electricity project.

Set programme sustainability targets with KC sustainability leads.

- The SDP, architect and engineer are delivering their social value commitments. The Social Value Portal is being used to measure the outputs. The Council are also reviewing the wider SV policy with new proposals to go before Cabinet in June/July which will be incorporated into the Cultural Heart programme post OBC.
- Development of the Outline Business Case at Gateway 2 (July 2022 Cabinet) will include:
 - RIBA 2 Masterplan
 - OBC update of outline feasibility/viability
 - Determining value for money
 - Affordability and funding review
 - Update of development appraisal
 - Master development programme
 - Planning for successful delivery
 - Survey and investigation reports
 - Market review
 - Cost plan
 - Constraints/risk register

At Gateway 2 all elements of the programme including design, functionality and finances associated with capital and revenue will have been further assessed in detail and their viability tested and how they sit within the master plan for the Cultural Heart.

3 Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

This report deals with the delivery aspect of the blueprint. The blueprint was subject to a number of engagement exercises commencing in 2018 as part of the blueprint development and then again late in 2019 after the blueprint launch the Council undertook a Place Standard exercise to benchmark public reaction to the approach and projects. The key report for this can be found by accessing the following link:

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/huddersfield-town-centre/>

As part of initial development work into options around the core projects for the cultural heart a number of stakeholders have been consulted as a way of testing out and developing options. A programme of this scale will need engagement and consultation at various stages of the programme development including the statutory stages associated with any planning application.

3.2 Working with Partners

Collaboration and working together with partners are the key to ensuring we get the best outcomes for citizens, communities and Kirklees as a whole. Early contact with selected stakeholders has been undertaken to help shape some early options for

projects associated with the Cultural Heart. This will continue and be expanded as the programme is developed. The business case stages will require a full market review.

3.3 Place Based Working

The development of the blueprint and the associated Place Standard exercise has already engaged town centre stakeholders, businesses and users to help shape the overall approach to redeveloping Huddersfield Town Centre. Other engagement and consultation exercises will be carried out for each identified project. This intelligence alongside market-based information will be used to shape proposals so that it meets the needs of existing and future Kirklees residents.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The reduction of carbon emissions and the minimisation of air quality problems is a key objective for the blueprint. The sustainability strategy and net zero requirements for the Cultural Heart programme are being reviewed by the designers to start to consider the ways in which the aspirations will be incorporated into the design.

Both Climate Change and Air Quality will be key parts of the master plan to be delivered at Gateway 2. This in turn will inform detailed design and planning applications as the programme develops.

In addition, climate change initiatives are associated with the delivery and promotion of other associated projects and programmes for example sustainable transport modes that help to reduce adverse transport-derived impacts on communities and public health. This aspect is particularly evident in the Transforming Cities Fund where further carbon mitigation measures need to be integrated into scheme scope and designs.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The blueprint includes within it a key objective of providing a family friendly town centre. This means that uses, streets and places will favour all age groups including children. Part of the strategy to renew the town is to bring in new uses that attract families and young people in a way the town doesn't at present. This means that the introduction of cultural activities and associated food and beverage offers need to be managed in a way that appeals to all age groups. Additionally, streets and spaces such as the Town Park will be designed with all generations in mind making them both safe and inclusive at the same time.

3.6 Other (Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

3.6.1 Finance

The Cultural Heart programme is a significant undertaking with a current estimated construction value of £210m including an allowance for inflation. This estimated figure excludes Council staff resources and service team fixtures, fittings and equipment (FF&E). There are a number of other exclusions which will be discounted or included as work progresses towards the OBC Cabinet report.

Current approved multi-year capital plans to support the Cultural heart Programme total £42.8m over the 2021-26 period, inclusive of provision for a replacement MSCP and provision for the previously advised costs of £6.55m to achieve Gateway 2.

Should Cabinet approve that the Cultural Heart programme is to proceed beyond Gateway 2 in July 2022, this is a significant additional capital expenditure commitment of up to £170m over the next four to five years. It is assumed that the associated funding would be funded from Council borrowing, although all possible external funding opportunities would also be explored.

The associated Council annual debt requirement would need to be serviced from general fund revenue estimated to be in the region of £6m per annum by the time of scheme completion in four to five years' time. Operational revenue and capital costs will need to be factored in as part of developing the OBC report.

Cabinet would then have the subsequent authority, at Gateway 2 in July 2022, if it wished to proceed, to commit to a preferred option and full construction over a four-to-five-year period, within available capital and revenue resources approved prior at Budget Council in February 2022.

3.6.2 Procurement & Value for Money

For this stage of the programme up to Gateway 2 (OBC) the principal appointments have been made. This includes the SDP (Mace/T&T), architects (FCB) and the engineers (Arup).

Surveys are also being undertaken as part of information gathering, consultancy help is being engaged for procurement of a venue operator and agencies are being procured to help with the comms.

Work is on budget (£6.55m) to conclude the OBC and master plan as planned by July 2022.

3.6.3 Legal

As anticipated in the Cabinet report a legal framework firm has been appointed to assist Legal Services with the appointment of consultants, assist with procurement advice and secure vacant possession of properties on the site and particularly the Piazza Shopping Centre.

3.7 Consultees and their opinions

No consultees at this time other than the consultations referred to at 3.1 and 3.2 above.

4 Next steps and timelines for The Cultural Heart

Subject to Cabinet approvals the anticipated programme is:

- Gateway 2, Outline Business Case (OBC) July 2022 target

Cabinet approval is required to proceed beyond Gateway 2

- Gateway 3,
Planning Design Freeze & Planning Submission September 2022 target
- Gateway 4,
Construction contractor award Q1 2024 target
- Completion Q1 2026 target

5 Officer recommendations and reasons

Below are the recommendations from the 16th November 2021 Cabinet report.

- 5.1** To agree to proceed in line with the proposals and recommendations in the Strategic Outline Case to Gateway 2 within the approved funding limits approved at the cabinet meeting of 22nd June 2021.

Reason: To expedite the programme and achieve the overall acceleration so that the Cultural Heart master plan and Outline Business Case can be completed as soon as is practical.

- 5.2** To agree to delegate all necessary authority in pursuance of recommendation 6.1 to the Strategic Director for Growth and Regeneration to deliver the programme to Gateway 2 the Outline Business Case.

Reason: To expedite the programme and achieve the overall acceleration.

6 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Below are the recommendations from the 16th November 2021 Cabinet report that were approved at Cabinet.

Cllr Peter McBride, the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, supports the recommendation and was briefed on the 20th October 2021, and Cllr Paul Davies, the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Corporate, was briefed on the 15th October 2021

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder recommends that Cabinet:

- 6.1** Agrees to proceed in line with the proposals and recommendations in the Strategic Outline Case to Gateway 2 within the approved funding limits approved at the cabinet meeting of 22nd June 2021 so that the Cultural Heart master plan and Outline Business Case can be completed as soon as is practical.
- 6.2** Delegates all necessary authority in pursuance of recommendation 7.1 to the Strategic Director for Growth and Regeneration to deliver the programme to Gateway

2 the Outline Business Case.

7 Contact officer

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8 Background Papers and History of Decisions

- **March 2019** – Cabinet Report - Assembling land and property – Huddersfield Town Centre (Piazza) -
<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s29122/Item%2014%20Land%20Assembly.pdf>
- **June 2019** – Huddersfield Blueprint Launch Event
- **August - Oct 2019** - Huddersfield Blueprint Place Standard Exercise – Results at <https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/huddersfield-town-centre/>
- **February 2020** – Cabinet Report - Huddersfield Blueprint - Next Steps -
<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s34958/Item%2015%20CAB%20-%2020%20-%20071%20-%202020-02-25%20Cabinet%20Huddersfield%20Blueprint%20-%20Next%20Steps%20Final.pdf>
- **September 2020** – Cabinet Report - Dewsbury and Huddersfield Town Centre Finance -
<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s37506/Town%20Centre%20Finance%20Cabinet%20Report%20-%20Final%20Version.doc.pdf>
- **June 2021** – Cabinet Report - Cultural Heart, part of the Huddersfield Blueprint – Next Steps
[Cultural Heart, part of the Huddersfield Blueprint – Next Steps](#)
- **November 2021** – Cabinet Report – Cultural Heart, part of the Huddersfield Blueprint – Gateway 1.
<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s43757/PUBLIC%20CUTLURAL%20HEART%20Cabinet%20Report.%20Final%2016.11.21.pdf>

9 Strategic Director responsible

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ECONOMY & NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

Agenda Plan 2021/22

	Items	Officer Contact	Notes
<p>Tuesday 13th July 2021</p> <p>Agenda Publication: Monday 5th July 2021</p>	<p>Kirklees Resource and Waste Strategy</p> <p>The Panel will consider a report which sets out the draft Kirklees Resource and Waste Strategy prior to full council in September 2021.</p> <p>Dewsbury Town Centre Update</p> <p>To provide the Panel with an update on Dewsbury Town Centre projects and their programmes for delivery.</p>	<p>Sue Proctor/Will Acornley /Lory Hunter/Natalie Stone</p> <p>Simon Taylor/ Peter Thompson,</p>	
<p>Tuesday 24th August 2021</p> <p>Agenda Publication: Monday 16th August</p>	<p>Cooper Bridge Update</p> <p>Update to Panel ahead of Cabinet Meeting in September</p>	<p>Keith Bloomfield</p>	

<p>Tuesday 7th September 2021</p> <p>Agenda Publication: Monday 30th August</p>	<p>Review of Winter maintenance services including the link to planning</p> <p>Cultural Heart</p> <p>Scheduled to go to Cabinet in November</p> <p>Waste Disposal Interim Arrangements (private)</p>	<p>Sue Proctor / Kathryn Broadbent/ Mark Scarr</p> <p>David Glover /David Shepherd</p> <p>Nigel Hancock/Lory Hunter</p>	
<p>Tuesday 19th October 2021</p> <p>Agenda Publication: Monday 11th October</p>	<p>Hot Food Takeaway SPD</p> <p>Kirklees Housing and Neighbourhoods update including estate management</p>	<p>Mathias Franklin /Hannah Morrison/ Johanna Scrutton Steven Wright</p> <p>Naz Parker</p>	
<p>Tuesday 30th November 2021</p> <p>Agenda Publication: Monday 22nd November</p>	<p>Procurement of Waste Treatment Services</p>	<p>Nigel Hancock/ Lory Hunter / Will Acornley</p>	<p>Cabinet December</p>

Thursday 6th January 2022 Agenda Publication: Wednesday 29 th December	Smaller Towns Programme	Simon Taylor	
Tuesday 8th February 2022 Agenda Publication: Monday 31st January	Kirklees Inclusive Economic Strategy Refresh Place Partnership Leads – Active Travel Update	Jonathan Nunn Vina Randhawa	
Thursday 3rd March 2022 Agenda Publication: Wednesday 23 rd February	Huddersfield Blueprint Update and Cultural Heart	Simon Taylor / David Glover	
Thursday 7th April 2022 Agenda Publication: Wednesday 30 th March	Play areas	Will Acornley (tbc)	

Items for consideration

Scheduled

- Waste Strategy (July)
- Dewsbury Town Centre Update (July)
- A62 to Cooper Bridge Corridor Improvement Scheme (August)
- Cultural Heart (September)
- Review of Winter maintenance services including the link to planning (September)
- Overview of SPD's (October)
- Kirklees Housing and Neighbourhoods update including estate management (October)
- Procurement of Waste Treatment Services PRIVATE (November)
- Smaller Towns Programme (January)
- Kirklees Inclusive Economic Strategy Refresh (February)
- Place Partnership Leads – Active Travel Update (February)

Items provisionally scheduled (may be subject to some change):

- Huddersfield Blueprint Update (March)
- Cultural Heart Update (March)
- Play Areas – (April)

Items not yet scheduled:

- Inward Investment Strategy (postponed due to Covid)
- Air Quality Action Plan 2021 plan
- Digital Update
- Skills: Training and Apprenticeships

- Green Space Strategy, Biodiversity
- Highway's capital funding programme
- Huddersfield Market
- Place Based Working – focus on stability
- Energy Saving Trust recommendations on future fleet procurement
- KC Housing Allocations Policy Review (new municipal year/new timeline)
- Affordable Housing Mix SPD's

Chair Briefed on:

- Cultural Heart
- Huddersfield Markets

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