

# Public Document Pack



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

**Julie Muscroft**

The Democracy Service

Civic Centre 3

High Street

Huddersfield

HD1 2TG

**Tel:** 01484 221000

Please ask for: Jodie Harris

Email: [jodie.harris@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:jodie.harris@kirklees.gov.uk)

Wednesday 30 March 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 7 April 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".

**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)

Andrew Bird (Co-Optee)

# Agenda

## Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

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### Pages

**1: Membership of the Committee**

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

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**2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

1 - 8

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.

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**3: Interests**

9 - 10

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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**6: Update on Huddersfield, Heckmondwike and Dewsbury Bus Station Projects (Transforming Cities Fund programme)** 11 - 28

The Panel will consider a update on the Huddersfield, Heckmondwike and Dewsbury Bus Station Projects (Transforming Cities Fund programme)

Contact:

Richard Hollinson, Head of Major Projects

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**7: Playable Spaces Strategy Update** 29 - 58

The Panel will consider a report and a presentation which sets out the progress made in delivering the Council's Playable Spaces Strategy.

Contacts:

Will Acornley, Head of Operational Services  
Catherine Little, Programme Manager, Environment Services

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**8: Work Programme 2021/22** 59 - 64

The Panel will consider its work programme for 2021/22 and any initial items for inclusion for 2022/23.

Contact:

Jodie Harris, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

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Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday 3rd March 2022

Present: Councillor Harpreet Uppal (Chair)  
Councillor Yusra Hussain  
Councillor Martyn Bolt  
Councillor John Taylor  
Councillor Robert Iredale

Co-optees Chris Friend

In attendance: Councillor Peter McBride, Cabinet Member for  
Regeneration  
Councillor Eric Firth, Cabinet Member for Town Centres  
Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director, Development  
David Glover, Senior Responsible Officer, Economy &  
Skills  
Helen Roberts, Architect, Fielden Clegg Bradley Studios  
George Wilson, Architect, Fielden Clegg Bradley Studios

Observers: Councillor Elizabeth Smaje

Apologies: Councillor Gwen Lowe  
Andrew Bird (Co-Optee)

**1 Membership of the Committee**

Apologies were received from Councillor Gwen Lowe and Andrew Bird, Co-Optee.

**2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The amended Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 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 deputations or petitions were received.

**6 Public Question Time**

No questions were received from the public.

**7 Update on the Huddersfield Blueprint including the Cultural Heart**

The Panel considered a report providing an update on the Huddersfield Blueprint which included the Cultural Heart presented by Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director of Development. David Glover, Senior Responsible Officer for Economy and Skills, Councillor Peter McBride, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Councillor Eric Firth, Cabinet Member for Town Centres were also in attendance.

Cllr Peter McBride advised that the update provided detailed examples of the Cultural Heart and the overall blueprint, along with the progress made by the consultants, who guided the development of the project.

Joanne Bartholomew gave a presentation which highlighted the key points in respect of the 10-year vision which included:

The George Hotel:

The Hotel had come into the Council's possession in 2020. Since that time work had taken place on the first phase of physical repair to the building to ensure that it was watertight and fit for the next phase of development. The project was complex and due to be completed by January 2023. The main objective was to secure the most sustainable long-term future for the building.

Work had progressed with a specialist development manager to identify an optimum use and offer for the building that was attractive to the market. Specialist advice identified the need to increase room numbers and sizes, deal with accessibility issues throughout the building and ensure the food and beverage space could be maximised. The ambition was to deliver a 90-bed hotel space.

The listed status of the building was a major consideration and work had been undertaken with conservation architects with experience of hotel development. The next stage of the work was to develop a final design for the new hotel for Cabinet to consider in Summer 2022. Ahead of this the concept would be marketed to the hotel sector during March and April 2022.

The Northumberland Street Regeneration Project including Huddersfield Market

The Project was looking at the existing Huddersfield Open Market area with an intention to be the location for the future Huddersfield's Market offer. The long-term vision was considered at Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022, with the objective being to have a destination that was attractive to a wide audience and also support the business and commuter activity that was emerging in the area of town. A series of initial design options with business cases were being prepared and the project would be considered alongside other proposals for possible levelling up bids, should a further round be announced from the Government. The project had been impacted

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 3 March 2022**

by the TransPennine Route upgrade, and it was unlikely that the project would be delivered before 2025.

### New Street

The replacement of the public realm for New Street was underway and had undergone consultation. The project envisaged a revitalization of the street as a high-quality pedestrian space with room for events and pop-up stalls. Work had concentrated on investigating statutory undertaker apparatus and cellars in the area. The remainder of the construction work would commence in August 2022 with an anticipated end in January 2024.

### Kingsgate Cinema

The Council was working with the owners of Kingsgate Shopping Centre and the Light cinema group to bring a cinema into the town centre. Planning permission had already been granted and conditions associated with this were being discharged. The construction contract was being tendered by the owner of Kingsgate and the construction period would last 18 months.

### 103 New Street – Student Accommodation

The property would deliver approximately 120 student bedspaces in the former co-operative building. The project was near completion with the developer programme showed the project being complete for occupation in the summer of 2022.

### Bus Station

Huddersfield Bus Station improvements were part of the wider Transforming Cities Fund programme being delivered across West Yorkshire. The Council, working with the Combined Authority were currently developing the project and business case. The current programme took to the submission of an initial planning application and the programme was:

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

### Town Centre Living

The aim was to utilise heritage buildings to change and diversify the housing offer in Huddersfield town centre and support wider town centre uses. Officers were concentrating on buildings within public ownership, primarily Estate Buildings and Somerset House. At Estate Buildings there was the potential to provide around 30 high quality, well sized residential units, with the completion expected to be in early 2023. At Somerset Buildings there was the potential to provide around 14 high quality, well sized residential units with development taking place 2023-24.

### Station to Stadium Enterprise Corridor – Including the National Health innovation Campus

The Council was embarking upon a master planning exercise for the future growth around the railway station, the Southgate site and land between Leeds Road, the Stadium and St Andrews Road. The aim was to provide a planning framework to deliver regeneration based on high quality employment uses, with Phase 1 of the

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 3 March 2022**

concept being the National Health Innovation Campus which gave a focus for business and employment growth in the area. This would 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 2022 and will be completed in the summer of 2022.

In response to a question from the Panel around connectivity, (including cycle lanes) and how people who were not fully mobile would benefit, Joanne Bartholomew advised that Officers were working on a Movement Strategy which would be shared with Scrutiny at a future meeting.

The Panel raised concerns on information being in the public domain prior to it being presented to Scrutiny when Portfolio Holders and officers had been asked to present the information at Scrutiny Panels prior to it being available to the public. Councillor Peter McBride advised that the programme was extremely large which required professional guidance, and that Scrutiny was presented with the information as soon as it was possible.

The Panel asked a question regarding the original plan/intention for the George Hotel as it had changed from a 60-bed hotel with a rugby league museum to a 90 bed hotel with no museum. The Panel noted that no survey had been carried out. The Panel was concerned that the decision to change the plan had not been open and transparent and agreed that engagement with other parties would have been beneficial. Joanne Bartholomew acknowledged the Panels comments, and advised that an update on work with the development partner would return to Scrutiny. The Panel was advised that commitments had not been made as there were further business cases and commercial work to consider which would go through the Cabinet and Scrutiny process. Joanne Bartholomew further added that there was a significant amount of work to be done across the whole of the blueprint around the gateway points, at which Scrutiny can be applied.

The Panel asked questions around the price point of the hotel highlighting concerns around the business case for the purchase, renovation, and commercial operation. Joanne Bartholomew advised that with regards to the strategic acquisition of the building, Kirklees Council wanted to have a say in the hotel in the future, and controlling the asset was important to Cabinet. The 2.4 million pounds of Heritage Action Zone funding was for the building only. The development management company was in the business of understanding how to go to market and work with the hotel market, and Kirklees would be guided by their advice. The development management relationship helped engage in a professional management way with the hotel sector. There would then be a point which the Council would understand which partners were interested in doing business commercially, at that point a business case would be submitted to Cabinet with regards to capital investment and ongoing revenue agreement. At this point in time there was not a commitment to a hotel.

Councillor McBride advised that the George Hotel was an iconic building and one of the most important buildings across the Town. Rugby League was founded within that building and attempts were made to keep rugby league within, promises that had been given at that stage were genuine. The key elements in that area of the



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town were the improvements to the station, as it was the main route across the Pennines and would generate more business. The first point of reference for anyone arriving at Huddersfield Train Station would be the hotel. When the hotel was brought up to date it would accrue business from the station.

The Panel raised concerns about the decision to purchase the hotel and felt it was important that there was confidence that due diligence had been carried out. It was also important that purchases, such as the George Hotel were not made without a sound understanding of costs, commitments, risks along with the associated opportunities.

### **Delivering the Cultural Heart Programme**

The Panel received a report on the Cultural Heart Programme presented by David Glover, Senior Responsible Officer of Economy and Skills. The report provided information on the Council's vision for a new Cultural Heart to be built around Queensgate Market and the existing Library and Art Gallery building, which he referred to as the Flagship Project and key regeneration project for the town centre. The vision included:

- 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 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Cabinet approved the Cultural Heart, part of the Huddersfield Blueprint-Gateway 1 report. The report set out the Strategic Outline Case for the programme as the first step in the strategy for developing a robust master plan and the Outline Business Case at Gateway 2. The Outline Business Case followed the Green Book methodology and provided Cabinet with the appropriate information to determine the future direction of the programme beyond Gateway 2 and ensure the Council's resources were committed appropriately.

The Panel received updates on the recommendations noted at the Scrutiny Panel on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

A legal framework firm had been appointed to assist legal services with the appointment of consultants and contractors, to secure vacant possessions of properties on the site and advise generally on other property related matters. The architects (Feilden Clegg Bradley) and the Engineers (Arup) were successfully appointed in October 2021. Negotiations were 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.

The Council's vision for a new Cultural Heart was a significant undertaking beyond the normal resources and operation. Council Technical/Quality, Masterplan and

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 3 March 2022**

Finance groups had been set up to provide technical and financial checks and balances at appropriate milestones. The sustainability strategy had been established and was in the process of agreeing the formal targets which would be measurable. The Social Value Portal was being used to measure outputs.

The Panel asked questions regarding the underground tunnels in the Town Centre and asked if more premises would be served underground, enabling the streets to be clear of traffic. David Glover advised that keeping the underground was a consideration as there were benefits of keeping them, but there were no plans to extend.

The Panel raised concerns around inflation costs within construction which could cause financial difficulties. The Panel asked if there would be further borrowing or re-scoping aspects of the plan. David Glover advised that inflation was one of the risks within the project, but that there was an allowance built into the budget for inflation.

The Panel raised concerns regarding ward councillors not being consulted or engaged in the project. David Glover advised that advice from the consultants was needed prior to engagement with Councillors, partners and end users. The project was at the stage where engagement with Councillors was now possible. The Panel advised that Councillors were end users and a recommendation was put forward that Councillors were engaged at an earlier stage.

The Panel raised questions on sustainability, with regards to the plans that were in place to reduce cars and emissions in the centre and what the future plans of other assets such as museums out of town were. David Glover advised that sustainability and plans for other assets were a consideration and would flow through the design.

The Panel raised concerns regarding recommendations previously made by the Panel, as these were 'noted' but were not actioned. David Glover advised that the project was not at the stage to action the recommendations, but reassured the Panel that the recommendations were recognised.

The Panel received a presentation from Helen Roberts and George Wilson, architects from Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios who had been appointed through a public competitive process for master planning and architects. They provided a summary of activities to date, which were:

- Reviewed the SOC Scheme summarised in Cabinet Report,
- Had undertaken detailed discussions with Kirklees stakeholders from the Library, Museum and Art Gallery, Highways, Major Projects and Parks and Open Spaces,
- Developed a detailed schedule of accommodation for each element of the brief,
- Produced Assessments of Significance for Queensgate Market and the existing Library, and met with Historic England and the Civic Society,
- Undertaken an impact analysis to determine the required capacity for car parking,
- Liaised with specialists in the location for the new 2,200 capacity venue,

## Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 3 March 2022

- Produced a variety of options for the location of key elements of the brief,
- Begun to draw conclusions on the principles and layout of the proposed Masterplan.

The vision for the park provided a major destination space which acted as the connector, the enabler, and the facilitator of a new vibrant outdoor cultural life for the town. The architects were working with Reform, a local landscape architect whose brief was to create:

- An inviting, welcoming place, all day, all year round,
- Culture - Art, Heritage, Performance and Literature,
- Nature - Biodiverse, Resilient, Healthy,
- A destination in itself – A reason to visit and a reason to stay,
- Space for all – Everyone welcome.

The next steps were:

- To further develop the approach to creating a new welcoming inclusive entrance and extension to the old Library,
- Look at options for developing the park to the north of the site,
- Look at the carbon and financial costs of removal/retention of the tunnels,
- Develop outline schemes for costing for all the cultural venues.

The Panel raised concerns around antisocial behaviour and safety of the public in the park, ensuring it was suitably illuminated on an evening for people walking through the park as the evening economy played an important role. It was noted that the park should also be a green open space and an open concrete jungle should be avoided. George Wilson advised that the park would be welcoming and be a family friendly useable space, 24 hours a day. The space would be lit, and it would be key that the buildings around the space would have the capacity to survey the park. With regards to a green space and flexibility of the space, part of the concept of the rooms was around having defined areas where competing activities would not take place at the same time.

The Panel noted that the presentation lacked information on active travel accessibility, getting across the ringway, using active travel modes which needed to be factored in, retained and enhanced. It was also noted that those with disabilities such as with dementia and the visually impaired would need to be considered as using stairs was quite a challenge. George Wilson advised that inclusion and diversity factors would be built into the design response. A key part of the sustainability targets was around transport, trying to promote a modal shift towards more active modes of transport. It was noted that the Queensgate ring road presented challenges but cycling facilities would be included in the development of the scheme.

The Panel asked questions around the users of the park with regards to the music venue, building in the accessibility needs, for example using speakers. George Wilson advised that there would be a variety of events in the park, and conversations were taking place with the landscape team and venue specialists on

## **Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 3 March 2022**

where equipment could be stored. The tunnel access could house some equipment such as barriers and staging, but it would be likely that individual events would be serviced through service vehicles.

The Panel asked a question around electric charging points, Helen Roberts advised that it was a requirement of the new car park to supply a certain number of electric charging points.

The Panel asked a question on the considerations of carbon production on concrete, David Glover advised that concrete was not the most sustainable material but there were low carbon concretes available and other materials would be considered.

**RESOLVED:** The Panel noted the report and thanked officers and the architects for their attendance. The Panel welcomed plans relating to the Huddersfield Blueprint and the Cultural Heart and recommended that detailed consideration continue to be given to the following areas. It was agreed that:

1. Joanne Bartholomew submits a report on the Movement Strategy to a future Scrutiny Panel meeting.
2. Communication and engagement should be improved with Councillors and Scrutiny throughout the project.
3. Considerations are given to connectivity including how people travel around the town and between the bus and train stations.
4. Cross party working on plans for the Huddersfield Blueprint be considered,
5. The Cultural Heart plans factor in safety, accessibility, and sustainability.
6. The use of underground tunnels for deliveries be considered, favouring pedestrians within the town.

### **8 Work Programme 2021/22**

The Panel considered the work programme for 2021/22 municipal year with Playable Spaces to be scheduled for the meeting on 7 April 2022.

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

<b>KIRKLEES COUNCIL</b>			
<b>COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC</b>			
<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>			
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:** Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 7 April 2022

**Title of report:** Progress Update on Huddersfield, Heckmondwike and Dewsbury Bus Station Projects (Transforming Cities Fund programme)

**Purpose of report:** To provide an update on each of these projects and next steps.

<b>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?</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u></b>	<b>No</b> <b>Private Report/Private Appendix – No</b>
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	<b>David Shepherd – 30 March 2022</b>  No decision is being sought which has financial implications at this stage  No decision is being sought which has legal/governance implications at this stage, however it should be noted that advice was sought regarding pre-election guidance for Officers and Councillors ahead of this report being produced.
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	Cllr McBride and Cllr Firth

**Electoral wards affected:** Newsome, Heckmondwike and Dewsbury East (indirect implications for bus services for other Kirklees wards)

**Ward councillors consulted:** Newsome, Heckmondwike and Dewsbury East Ward Councillors

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes – this report does not contain any personal data

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) is a national sustainable transport fund administered by the Department for Transport (DfT) for delivery of sustainable transport projects. Kirklees Council has worked with West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and other partners to develop a TCF Bid for Leeds City Region. The original bid was submitted to government in November 2019 by WYCA and Kirklees projects amounted to approximately £66 million of investment in sustainable transport initiatives including bus station improvements and active travel schemes, albeit the funding has been partly split with WYCA as a project promoter as they own and operate Huddersfield and Dewsbury bus stations which were included in the original bid.
  
- 1.2 From 22/23 the Transforming Cities Fund has been incorporated into the Government's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement which is a five-year settlement from Government. This means that the timescales for delivery of the projects and programme have been eased from the original deadline of March 2023. However, there is still an expectation that the TCF projects will be delivered early in the 5-year settlement to demonstrate effective and efficient delivery to Government, and projects should continue to progress as per their approved programmes. WY leaders have also committed to progressing the "higher scenario" of schemes making the overall funding for the programme across the region £457m and enabling the prospect of the schemes have greater transformational benefits  
(<https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s25608/Item%207%20-%20TCF%20Programme%20Review.pdf>)
  
- 1.2 The Leeds City Region Vision and Objectives for the TCF Programme are shown below:



## Leeds City Region TCF Vision

"Connecting people to economic and education opportunities through affordable, sustainable transport, boosting productivity and helping to create cleaner, healthier and happier communities for the future"

Objective	Description
<p><b>Enabling inclusive growth</b></p> 	<p>To enable as many people as possible to contribute to and benefit from economic growth, and contribute to improved health and wellbeing of our residents.</p>
<p><b>Boosting productivity</b></p> 	<p>Working with our businesses and universities to close the productivity gap, create thousands of jobs and add substantially to our economy.</p>
<p><b>Supporting clean growth</b></p> 	<p>Achieving our target for a net zero carbon economy by 2038 through lowering carbon emissions and taking advantage of new innovations to create jobs and growth.</p>
<p><b>Delivering 21<sup>st</sup> century transport</b></p> 	<p>Creating a transport system which addresses the challenges we face around capacity, connectivity, sustainability and air quality.</p>

### 1.3 What the Transforming Cities Fund means for West Yorkshire

- More accessible, affordable, and attractive greener transport options
- Supporting sustainable and inclusive growth
- Connecting people to economic and education opportunities
- Happier and healthier communities for the future
- A reduction in transport-based carbon emissions

1.4 Developing a 21st Century transport system is central to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's vision of building a strong, successful, zero carbon economy that provides a great quality of life for everyone who lives and works in the region. Providing an accessible, attractive, and cleaner alternative to car journeys is at the heart of the Leeds City Region Transforming Cities Fund (TCF).

1.5 Communities across Bradford, Calderdale, Craven, Harrogate, Kirklees, Leeds, Selby, Wakefield, and York are set to benefit from the schemes, which include new or improved bus and rail stations, cycling and walking infrastructure, and new Park and Rides. The programme is focused on connecting people in the communities of greatest economic need with job and training opportunities. This will, in turn, help boost productivity, living

standards and air quality, creating happier, healthier communities for the future.

- 1.6 Across the Leeds City Region, it is estimated TCF schemes will improve journeys by bus, rail, bike and on foot for up to 1.5 million people, take up to 12 million car trips per year off our roads and reduce CO2 emissions from car travel by up to 15,000 tonnes by 2036.
- 1.7 WYCA conducted a comprehensive process of determining how and which projects might be funded across the Leeds City Region, recognising that there would be more projects than the Government funding could cover. District partners were asked to submit long lists of potential projects and the programme was signed off by each of the Council Leaders, as well as members of the Combined Authority's Transport Committee. Information on how WYCA prioritised and finally agreed the projects for the bid can be found on their website (<https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/projects/transforming-cities-fund/faqs/>).
- 1.8 In the Kirklees context, there are eight projects which are funded by TCF via WYCA (three bus station projects and five active travel schemes). This update focuses on the three bus station projects at the request of the Chair of Scrutiny – these are Huddersfield Bus Station, Heckmondwike Bus Station and Dewsbury Bus Station.
- 1.9 Responsibility for the bus station projects is split between WYCA and Kirklees Council. WYCA are leading on Huddersfield Bus Station (internal transformation) and Dewsbury Bus Station. Kirklees Council is leading on Heckmondwike Bus Station and the external works and car park access to Huddersfield Bus Station. Its worth noting that the split in responsibilities is primarily due to asset ownership and ongoing operational responsibilities for the bus stations.
- 1.10 It should be noted that all three projects are currently in project development stages, not all the final details are currently known and therefore this report can only present information in the form of a current update, and it is suggested that a fuller update is given to Scrutiny at a later stage.
- 1.11 All the projects are governed and appraised by WYCA using the local assurance framework which requires project sponsors to develop their schemes in progressive steps, seek views from the public and key stakeholders and submit business cases at each main milestone before work can begin on the next. Final decisions on business cases and funding are made by the relevant committees at WYCA. This is consistent with the Government's agreed methodology and appraisal of major transport infrastructure projects.

## **2. Project information and updates**

### **2.1 Heckmondwike Bus Station**

### **2.1.1 Project Description**

The Heckmondwike Bus Station project lies at the heart of the A638 corridor between Dewsbury and Bradford. The scheme, worth £4.97m, sets out to transform the sustainable travel offer within Heckmondwike Town Centre, through the creation of a full bus station on the site of the current bus hub.

2.1.2 The step change in infrastructure includes an upgrade from 4 bus shelters to 6 bus stands and a layover bay, a new building including offices, Changing Places and an accessible WC and a waiting area. These interventions are complemented by measures which contribute to the Council's Climate Emergency, such as a green roof, green wall, sustainable urban drainage, and a solar panel system. A drawing showing the initial proposals is included in Appendix 1.

### **2.1.3 Scheme Justification and Benefits**

The scheme has several strategic drivers for investment. The scheme aligns with local and national policy such as Kirklees Local Plan, West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040 and Bus Back Better. The project enables inclusive growth and delivers 21<sup>st</sup> century transport for the people of Heckmondwike whilst tackling high car ownership and unsustainable travel patterns and their impacts on both air quality and productivity.

2.1.4 Heckmondwike Bus Station went through a rigorous optioneering process at the Outline Business Case stage which brought the scheme from a long list of 5 options, into a short list of 3 options and eventually into a preferred option through a 'multi-criteria appraisal tool'.

2.1.5 The outcomes of the scheme will be to increase capacity at the bus interchange in Heckmondwike, to induce modal shift from private vehicles and improve experience for bus users. Moreover, users of the bus station (including the drivers of the buses) will have increased satisfaction due to better facilities and there will be added value to local communities, with a focus on welfare and safety.

2.1.6 In turn, there will be increased bus patronage and a transformation of the bus offer in this area of Kirklees. The aspirations of the Local Plan will be supported through facilitation of employment and housing growth, and public health will be improved due to an improvement of air quality in the surrounding area. The increased capacity at the interchange will also reduce queuing time on the highway for buses – improving journey times and reliability.

### **2.1.7 Project Timescales and Current Stage of Process**

The Outline Business Case was submitted to the WYCA on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 and was approved at their Places, Regeneration and Housing Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

2.1.8 These timescales are indicative and subject to change:

- Planning submission – April 2022

- Public engagement – May 2022
- Planning approval – June / July 2022
- Full Business Case submitted – September 2022
- Full Business Case approved – October 2022
- Start on site (enabling works) – October / November 2022
- Start on site (main works) – January 2023
- Close on site – September 2023

### **2.1.9 Consultations, What People Said and What we are Doing**

A full public consultation period took place on the project between 13<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The project launched with the A638 Dewsbury-Cleckheaton Sustainable Travel Corridor project as ‘Helping you travel between Dewsbury and Cleckheaton’. The bus station element of the consultation received 133 survey completions, with a significant majority in favour of the scheme. There was significant outreach through a number of means such as press releases, online portal, social media, letter drops, leaflets, signage, and real-time information on the bus network.

2.1.10 The primary bus operator running through the current hub, Arriva, is an integral stakeholder to the project. The working relationship between Arriva and the Council is strong, demonstrated by a letter of support to accompany the scheme’s Outline Business Case. Arriva is set to run and manage the bus station facility following previous agreement with WYCA and Kirklees, and this is to be set out in a Memorandum of Understanding.

2.1.11 The project team undertook significant engagement with statutory stakeholders (including emergency services, government agencies and utility companies), interested parties (including community groups, civic societies, and local charities) and seldom heard groups (including the elderly, domestic abuse survivors and LGBTQ+ groups). This resulted in valuable feedback which was fed into project development. An accessibility workshop was held during the public consultation period and designs were adjusted significantly during concept design stage to reflect this; wayfinding and colour contrasting fixtures for example. The feedback has also been instrumental in the project team now looking at WC/changing places facilities.

2.1.12 Moving forward, the project will be subject to a planning application and its statutory consultation process will run during the determination period. This will be an opportunity for residents and businesses to raise any material planning concerns. A “you said, we did” style engagement will run alongside this process to allow for consultees to understand how they fed into the design process. The project will also be subject to a statutory consultation period during the Traffic Regulation Order process, which concerns any necessary traffic management changes.

### **2.1.13 Next Steps**

The next key milestone for Heckmondwike Bus Station is the submission of the planning application to the local planning authority. Subject to the relevant approvals the project will subsequently continue with its design and scope

development as set out in the indicative timeline above.

## **2.2 Dewsbury Bus Station**

### **2.2.1 Project Description**

The scheme will fully refurbish and upgrade Dewsbury Bus Station making it safer and more accessible. The scheme has been developed in response to a range of challenges associated with people feeling unsafe because of anti-social behaviour, poor access to the bus station and to the facilities inside, road safety and limitations in the current quality of customer facilities. The scheme will modernise the existing building making it more attractive and welcoming to encourage people to use the bus station and travel by bus, rather than private car, reducing vehicle carbon emissions. Many of the current facilities are at the end of their useful life and require replacing. The scheme will install new seating, lighting, flooring and an information point in the concourse, and new signs will help people navigate in and around the bus station. New real time information boards will also be installed providing passengers with live bus and rail information. The scheme will also include a new roof with solar panels, cycle parking facilities, a Changing Places facility with fully accessible toilets and generous space and equipment, and improvements to staff areas. Outside the bus station there will be additional bus layover bays and improvements to make it easier and safer to walk around the bus station and landscaping and planting to make the area greener and more attractive. The scheme supports wider regeneration in the town centre, leading to economic growth, attracting businesses, and improved access to educational opportunities in the town and the rest of Kirklees. Total scheme cost (approved at OBC) is £14,337,600. A drawing showing the initial proposals is included in Appendix 2.

### **2.2.2 Scheme Justification and Benefits**

Dewsbury Bus Station was rebuilt in 1994 and is owned by the Combined Authority. Approximately 20,000 people use the bus station daily which is close to the town's retail and employment areas. Dewsbury Train Station is situated close by, to the north. The existing bus station has challenges including concerns around personal safety, accessibility, road safety and a lack of quality services. The scheme will create a more welcoming and attractive bus station, where people feel safe, which is accessible and has better facilities and has the potential to attract more visitors to the town. This will support economic growth in the town centre, by attracting businesses, and making it easier for people to access training and educational opportunities in Dewsbury and the wider City Region. The proposed scheme at Dewsbury Bus Station will help reduce reliance on cars and promote buses as a convenient alternative. The scheme complements wider investment in bus priority and walking and cycling within Dewsbury town centre as well as along key corridors connecting the town.

2.2.3 The scheme will deliver a transformational, comprehensive refurbishment and upgrade of Dewsbury Bus Station making it a modern, fit for purpose facility that is safer and more accessible and will support wider regeneration in the town centre. The scheme has been developed in response to a range of challenges associated with people not feeling safe using the bus station because of antisocial behaviour, poor walking and cycling access to the bus

station, and access to the facilities inside, road safety, a poor waiting environment and a lack of quality services. The currently unoccupied retail units will be reconfigured to make them more attractive to prospective tenants. The scheme will also include a new roof with solar panels, cycle parking facilities, a Changing Places facility with fully accessible toilets with generous space and equipment, and improvements to staff areas including an accessible toilet and shower facility. Safety and security for passengers will be improved through improvements to CCTV and lighting, which will help to deter antisocial behaviour and crime.

#### **2.2.4 Project Timescales and Current Stage of Process**

- OBC approval granted – March 2022
- Planning application submission – September 2022
- Procurement and construction award - March 2023
- Full business case submission - May 2023
- Start of works - September 2023
- Completion of works - January 2025

#### **2.2.5 Consultations, What People Said and What we are Doing**

Consultation was carried out between 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Feedback was sought on initial early-design proposals for the bus station and will help shape the development of more detailed plans.

2.2.6 Stakeholder mapping was carried out prior to consultation and emails were sent to a large list of stakeholders in the Dewsbury area who may have links to the bus station or who would be able to help promote the consultation. Groups contacted included elected members, bus operators, businesses and services, education providers, transport providers, community groups, attractions in Dewsbury and other statutory stakeholders. Targeted mapping and engagement were also carried out to ensure the consultation was inclusive for 'seldom heard groups'.

2.2.7 A workshop with groups representing people with disabilities was held prior to public consultation, to ensure that their feedback on early ideas could be incorporated into the proposals. The workshop included representatives and members of Accessible Calderdale Disability Access Forum, Experience Community, Kirklees Council Independent Travel Trainers, Kirklees Education, Kirklees Visual Impairment Network, Royal National Institute of Blind People and Visits Unlimited.

2.2.8 Other stakeholders connected with Dewsbury were engaged with prior to public consultation to provide local insight and input into the design of potential measures to improve the facilities. A workshop with bus operators was organised and briefings were attended by political figures including cabinet members, local ward councillors, and members of the Combined Authority's Transport Committee. Proposals were also shared with the Dewsbury Town Centre Board, and the Mayor of West Yorkshire, prior to the public consultation.

2.2.9 Top reasons given for not using the bus station were 'I don't find the waiting facilities comfortable', 'I don't think the bus station is an attractive building to use' and 'I don't feel safe using the bus station (e.g., antisocial behaviour)'. These points are now being addressed in the scheme's development. 54% of respondents were not satisfied with the current bus station facilities. Feedback on the initial proposals for Dewsbury Bus Station was generally positive (51.4% of respondents rated them as 'very good' or 'good'). 45.6% of respondents said the proposals would encourage them to use the bus station more, and 28.5% of respondents said they would be more likely to walk or cycle to and from the bus station after the project is complete.

### **2.2.10 Next Steps**

We understand WYCA (as project lead and project sponsor) are now developing their proposals further to the scheme having outline business case approval and will be preparing a planning application based on their preferred option which will be submitted to Kirklees Council later this year. This application would be determined by Kirklees Council following standard local planning authority protocols. This will then lead WYCA towards their full business case and construction partner procurement.

## **2.3 Huddersfield Bus Station**

### **2.3.1 Project Description**

Huddersfield Bus Station TCF scheme comprises a comprehensive suite of measures that will transform the user experience of the bus station, making bus travel more accessible and desirable for both existing and new customers. The scheme will encourage increased uptake of sustainable modes, reducing private car dependency and thus reducing vehicle carbon emissions. In addition, there has been a key focus on improving station accessibility, particularly for those who find the current bus station difficult to use and navigate due to disability or other impairments.

2.3.2 The scheme also addresses safety and security concerns to ensure the bus station can be seen as a safe and secure environment for passengers and staff. The new main entrance concourse and canopy will create a safer, higher-quality passenger environment that is accessible to all. The canopy also seeks to address overcrowding issues by extending the waiting area outside and uplifting the environment with enhanced customer urban realm underneath. Currently there is an approved TCF budget of £9.1m with aspirations to provide an enhanced scheme. A drawing showing the initial proposals is included in Appendix 3.

### **2.3.3 Scheme Justification and Benefits**

There are numerous local and national strategic drivers for investment that the scheme aligns with including the WYCA Strategic Economic Framework, Kirklees Local Plan, West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040, The Huddersfield Blueprint and Bus Back Better.

- 2.3.4 The scheme aligns with the TCF programme objectives by providing 21<sup>st</sup> century transport facilities to the region, this enabling and supporting inclusive, clean growth and boosting local productivity.
- 2.3.5 The scheme objectives have influenced the ongoing design of the scheme and it will deliver an enhanced customer experience throughout the bus station and improve the sense of place providing a gateway experience. Improved connectivity and accessibility for all users will enable inclusive growth and provide integration with other sustainable transport modes. The external areas of the bus station will be improved, which will improve the safety and security of users both inside and outside the bus station. Further to this the proposed use of renewable energy and carbon mitigation measures of the facility will be improved to help tackle the climate emergency.

### **2.3.6 Project Timescales and Current Stage of Process**

The Huddersfield Bus Station project is currently undergoing an in-depth design and optioneering process to provide a scheme that maximises user and operational benefits and meets TCF objectives. Work is ongoing on the outline business case with a view to a completed outline business case being available late Summer/Autumn 2022, ready for the submission of an outline business case in May 22.

2.3.7 The following timescales are indicative and subject to change:

- Further public engagement and outline business case – Autumn 2022
- Planning approval – Spring 2023
- Full Business Case submitted – July 2023
- Full Business Case approved – August 2023
- Start on site (Main Works) – December 2023
- Close on site – June 2025

### **2.3.8 Consultations, What People Said and What we are Doing**

As part of the project development process, the project team launched a public consultation to gauge public support for the project and to invite comments and suggestions from the public. This survey covered all aspects of the Huddersfield Bus station project including the WYCA led elements and the Kirklees Council elements.

2.3.9 2143 people visited the consultation page over the 6-week period, in addition to the emails and Q&As received through the WYCA Your Voice Platform. The consultation ran from 29th July to 13th September and included online webinars. No in person events were held due to ongoing COVID 19 restrictions.

2.3.10 The Huddersfield Bus Station consultation information boards were downloaded 635 times off the WYCA Your Voice consultation platform. 280 respondents were actively engaged with 274 survey submissions made and 6 asking direct questions. Most respondents, 209, actively used the buses, with 218 respondents living in Huddersfield.



2.3.11 Many respondents, 43%, agreed that they didn't feel safe using the bus station and a large majority, 72%, don't find the waiting facilities comfortable. Further to this 72% also agreed that they didn't think the bus station was attractive.

2.3.12 Respondents were asked directly whether they supported the inclusion of a canopy structure over the area outside and surrounding the main entrance. The response to this was overwhelmingly positive with most respondents, 76%, replying positively.

2.3.13 In summary:

- Respondents noted that the exterior of the building needs improvement, and it was important that these improvements are included within the scheme
- Safety and security are important improvements that should be included in the scheme
- Environmental improvements are important to respondents and should be included in the development proposals
- There is very strong support for the delivery of the canopy as part of the scheme
- It is important that the canopy should provide improved facilities for users in the form of retail, seating, information points and planting.
- The provision of cycle facilities is supported under the canopy with the delivery of hire and maintenance facilities receiving lower levels of support

2.3.14 Moving forward, the project will be subject to a planning application and its statutory consultation process will run during the determination period. It is anticipated that a "you said, we did" style engagement will run prior to the planning process to allow for consultees to understand how they fed into the design process.

### **2.3.15 Next Steps**

The next key milestone for Huddersfield Bus Station is the submission of the Outline Business Case. Subject to the relevant approvals the project will subsequently continue with its design and scope development as set out in the indicative timeline above.

## **3. Implications for the Council**

### **3.1 Working with People**

Communications to the public on the submission of the Leeds City Region TCF Bid and the government's subsequent funding announcement have been made by WYCA and Kirklees Council. Full public consultation exercises on scheme options for each project have been undertaken at each development stage of the projects. An example of the information used for this is set out in Appendix 4 of this report.

### **3.2 Working with Partners**

The TCF Programme and the TCF projects within Kirklees are being co-developed and appraised by WYCA. WYCA has also procured a consultancy development partner to assist with the development of projects and project business cases for number of partnering districts, including Kirklees. The council has been working closely with its own specialist consultancies, train and bus operators, road user representative groups, equality access groups, business forums and delivery contractors.

### **3.3 Place Based Working**

Development of all TCF projects involves recruiting the services and/or knowledge of local user representative and community groups. Members of the public and ward councillors are consulted on their views on the development of scheme options and designs to achieve the best mix of interventions to deliver the programme objectives and address local needs. Specific place-based consultation events for members of the public form part of the engagement process.

### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

The reduction of carbon emissions is a key objective and driver for the development of TCF schemes. The delivery and promotion of sustainable transport modes that help to reduce adverse transport-derived impacts on communities and public health is also a determinant in development of the schemes. All the TCF projects have recently been reviewed to consider where further carbon mitigation measures can be integrated into scheme scope and designs.

### **3.5 Improving outcomes for children**

The TCF Programme does not specifically focus on improving outcomes for children, however, most interventions being considered concern inclusive transport measures and will improve the safety of and provisions for vulnerable road users, which include children. The schemes are being developed with a focus on improving the safety and security of bus stations – which will benefit families with the provision of improved toilet and changing places facilities where possible.

### **3.6 Other (e.g., Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions**

The council has the power to enter into funding agreements with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The council also has sufficient statutory powers to carry out each of the TCF projects, such as statutory planning processes where planning permission is required. The ongoing development and delivery of the TCF projects requires a number of programme and project management staff, together with design and support service staff.

Officers note that at the time of writing this report that Officers and Councillors are operating within pre-election guidance protocols.

#### **4. Next steps and timelines**

The next steps for each of the projects are set out in Section 2 of this report.

#### **5. Officer recommendations and reasons**

It is recommended that the Scrutiny panel acknowledge the progress made on the bus station projects to date and note this update.

#### **6. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

None at this point.

#### **7. Contact officer**

Richard Hollinson  
Head of Major Projects  
01484 221000  
richard.hollinson@kirklees.gov.uk

#### **8. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Cabinet report 'Kirklees Transforming Cities Fund Programme' – 1 Sept 2020  
(<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=6485&Ver=4>)

Details of all the public consultations carried out in partnership with WYCA can be found at: <https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/>

Report to WYCA Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee – Transforming Cities Programme Review – 7 February 2021  
(<https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s25608/Item%20-%20TCF%20Programme%20Review.pdf>)

#### **9. Service Director responsible**

Edward Highfield  
Service Director for Skills and Regeneration



## Appendix 2: Dewsbury Bus Station

# Transforming Dewsbury Bus Station

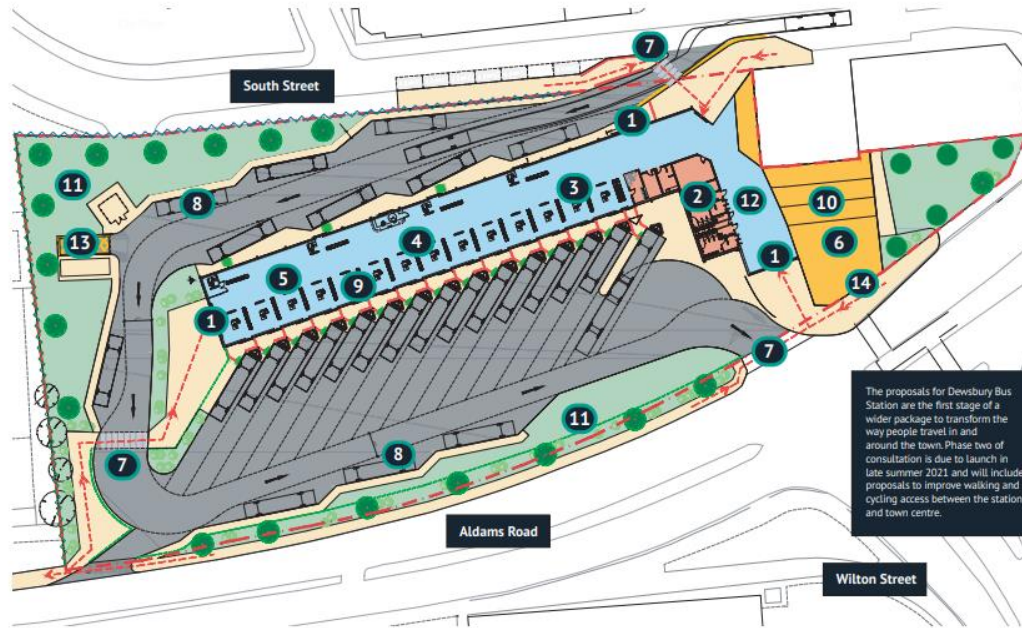
## The proposals

### Introduction to the consultation and the project:

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority, in partnership with Kirklees Council, is seeking feedback from people on a proposed transformation of the Dewsbury Bus Station building and its surroundings; including an improved interior, better accessibility for all bus station users and upgraded public entrances and exits.

- 1 New and improved entrances
- 2 A new Changing Places facility will provide an additional accessible toilet with extra equipment and space to meet the needs of people with a disability
- 3 Improved wayfinding
- 4 Internal features such as seating, flooring and signage will be replaced
- 5 New real time information screens at bus bays and concourse
- 6 Installation of solar panels to the roof to make the bus station more energy efficient
- 7 Improvements to crossings and kerbs to make walking safer, easier and more accessible
- 8 New bus layover bays created to improve bus station capacity
- 9 Bus stands improved to make boarding buses easier and safer
- 10 Upgraded retail units for an improved experience
- 11 Enhanced landscaping and additional green planting
- 12 A glazed atrium roof between South Street and Aldams Road entrances to allow natural light to enter
- 13 Parking provision for the Yorkshire Ambulance Service
- 14 Design of Aldams Road entrance to reflect position opposite Dewsbury Minster

Staff and tenant parking will be required however the location is subject to review.



The proposals for Dewsbury Bus Station are the first stage of a wider package to transform the way people travel in and around the town. Phase two of consultation is due to launch in late summer 2021 and will include proposals to improve walking and cycling access between the station and town centre.

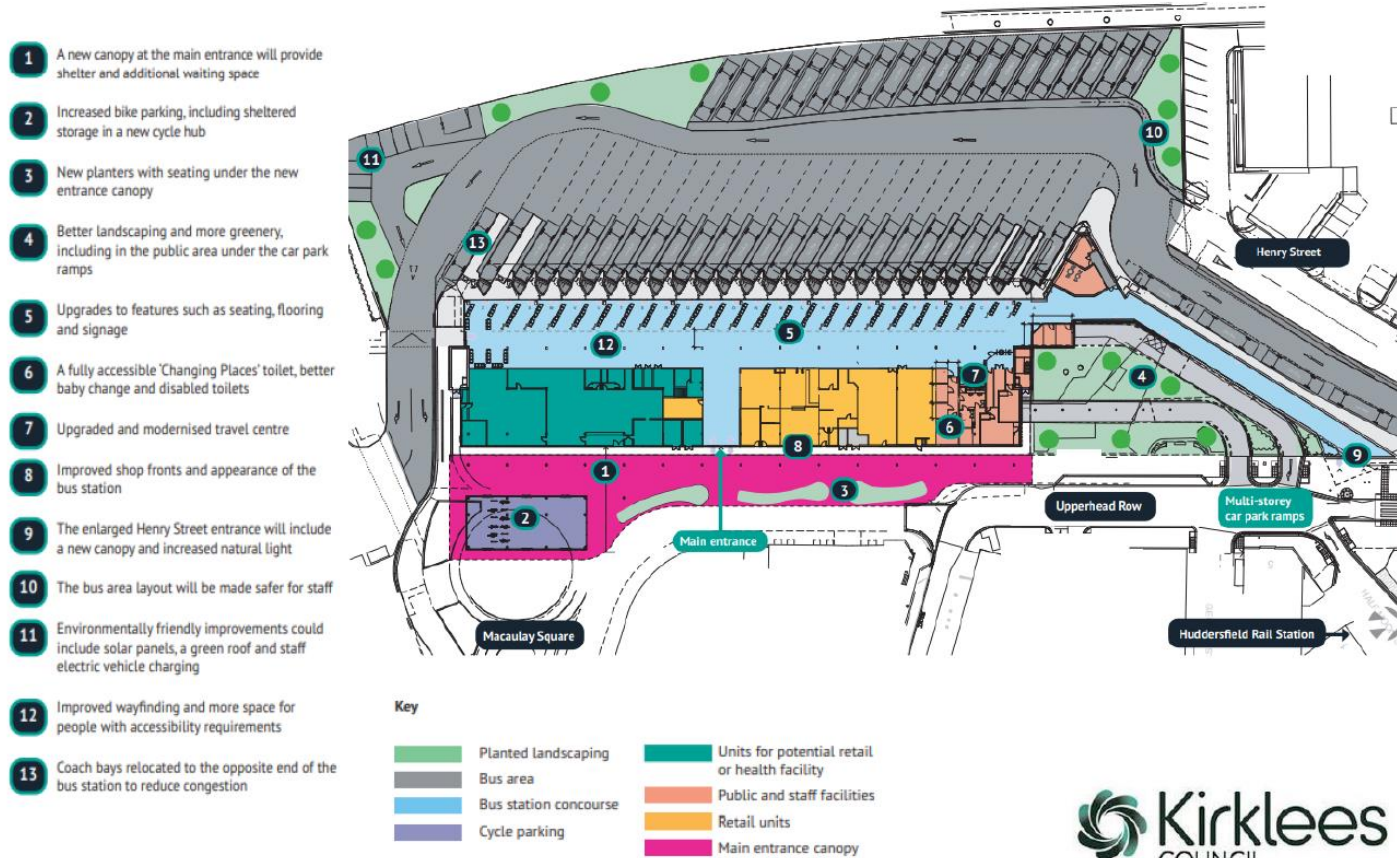
Key	
	Planted landscaping
	Bus area
	Open public space and pavements
	Bus station concourse
	Public and staff facilities
	Retail units
	Site boundary
	Public access routes

Delivered in partnership by:

Funded by:

## Appendix 3: Huddersfield Bus Station

# The Huddersfield Bus Station proposals



## Appendix 4 – Your Voice Example Page



Home » Transforming Dewsbury Bus Station

### Transforming Dewsbury Bus Station



Please note that this public consultation has now closed.

Thank you to all those who took part in this consultation. All survey answers, comments and suggestions are being considered in the next phase of designs. Please find the Outcome Report available at the top of this webpage or by clicking the button below.

The information below was presented during the public consultation between Thursday 22 July to Sunday 12 September 2021.

[Click here to view the Outcome Report](#)



The West Yorkshire Combined Authority, in partnership with Kirklees Council, is seeking feedback on a proposed transformation of the Dewsbury Bus Station building and its surroundings, including an improved interior, better accessibility for all bus station users and upgraded public entrances and exits.

In this public consultation we will be seeking feedback on initial proposals for the bus station, which will help shape the development of more detailed plans.

#### Improvements in Dewsbury Town Centre

The Dewsbury Bus Station proposals are the first stage of a wider package to transform the way people travel in and around the town, including better walking and cycling access between the station and the town centre. There will be a separate consultation regarding the proposed improvements in Dewsbury Town Centre later in the autumn.

#### Scheme aims

To encourage more people in and around Dewsbury to use public transport, the proposals aim to:

- Transform passenger facilities and enhance customer experience
- Improve accessibility and safety for all bus station users
- Upgrade retail experience at the bus station
- Help regenerate Dewsbury town centre and make it easier for people to travel between the town centre and the station

#### Consultation Report

[Transforming Dewsbury Bus Station - Consultation Report.pdf \(866 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

#### Our Proposals: Information and Visuals

[Dewsbury Bus Station Consultation Boards.pdf \(7.06 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

#### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

[About the 'Transforming Dewsbury Bus Station' scheme](#)

[About the Transforming Cities Fund \(TCF\) programme](#)

[Taking part in the consultation](#)

#### Key Dates

[Public consultation opens  
22 July 2021](#)

[Public consultation closes  
12 September 2021](#)

[Webinar on Transforming Dewsbury Bus Station  
07 September 2021](#)

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**Name of meeting: Economy & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel**

**Date: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Title of report: Playable Spaces Strategy Update**

**Purpose of report: To update on progress.**

<b>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?</b>	<b>Yes</b>  Value over £250k
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?</b>	<b>Key Decision – No</b>  <b>Private Report/Private Appendix – No</b>
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	<b>Colin Parr, 28/03/2022</b>
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	<b>Councillor Naheed Mather</b>

**Electoral wards affected: All**

**Ward councillors consulted: No**

**Public or private: Public**

**Has GDPR been considered? Yes**

## 1. Purpose

To provide an update on the progress made in delivering the Council's Playable Spaces Strategy, which was adopted by Cabinet in October 2019 and focused on setting out the Council's commitment for significant investment in the play experience of our Children, parents, and carers in Kirklees. A separate presentation has been prepared to take Members of the panel through this.

The strategy sets out our vision for a district where all are able and encouraged to access a range of opportunities to play outdoors, benefitting their physical and mental health and well-being as well as encouraging intergenerational interaction and community cohesion.

To achieve this vision the Playable Spaces Strategy aimed to:

- Provide a diverse range of high-quality play spaces for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to access challenging opportunities for play, physical activity, contact with nature and social development close to home.
- Encourage active play to help build physical strength, increase fitness and teach children vital life skills such as planning, negotiating, being creative and managing risk.
- Improve the overall quality of the play offer throughout Kirklees, and the financial sustainability of the network.
- Provide a more effective approach to ongoing maintenance and management both within the Council and by fostering greater citizen involvement.

The achievement of this was underpinned by three key principles:

- Working with people not doing to them: Citizens and communities will be engaged as part of the delivery of the programme to ensure that all play areas meet the needs of the community, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility over their play spaces. Ongoing play engagement programmes will help us to understand local inequalities in play, local barriers to accessing playable spaces, and to address these issues in conjunction with communities.
- Working with partners: The Playable Spaces Strategy has been produced as a partnership between Parks and Greenspace and Public Health. Delivery of the Strategy will build on this partnership and link with other Council services such as Communities. Relationships with external voluntary and community sector partnerships will be built up through site-based engagement as well as through the delivery of an ongoing play engagement programme.
- Place-based working: Sites will be refurbished on a case-by-case basis, in conjunction with the local community, rather than applying a “one size fits all” solution, taking into consideration areas of deprivation, housing density, health inequalities and other local factors, such as local fundraising initiatives. The Strategy is not just about providing physical places to play but also about gaining a better understanding of what physical and social factors influence the ability to access play, and how the Council can enable equitable access to play throughout Kirklees.

## 2. Recommendations

Members of the panel are asked to discuss the report and presentation, feeding back views and comments.

Report Sponsor: Will Acornley	Contact Officers: Catherine Little Extension: N/A
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# Playable Spaces

Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

7<sup>th</sup> April 2022



# Playable Spaces

A 5-year, £9.5m programme to improve outdoor play across Kirklees

Our vision is a district where all are able and encouraged to access a range of opportunities to play outdoors, benefitting their physical and mental health and well-being as well as encouraging intergenerational interaction and community cohesion



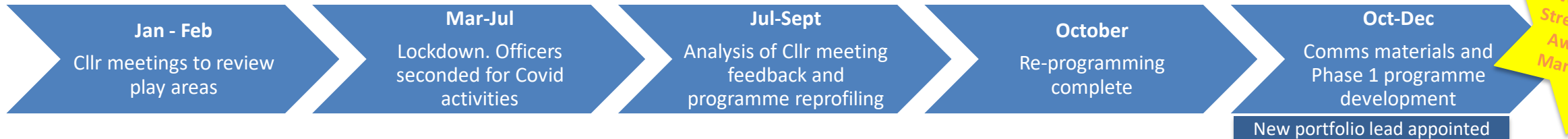
The journey so far...



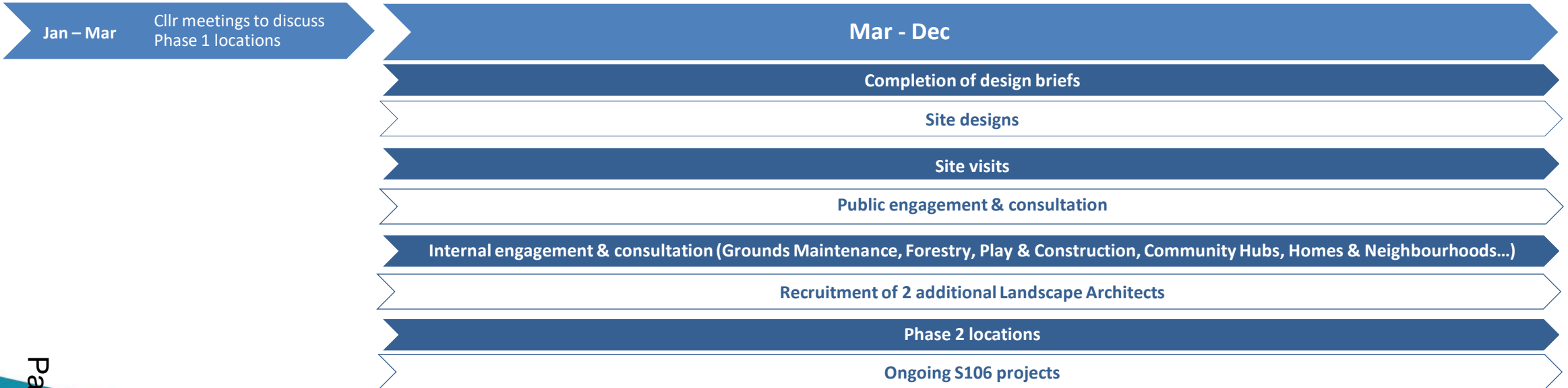
## 2019



## 2020



## 2021



# What we have achieved



- Manor Rise, Newsome

Special Judge's Award in the Children's Play category of the 2020 Street Design Awards.







- Branding created and website developed with online district-wide engagement & consultation

# Playable Spaces

## People, Places & Play

**Have your say on play!**  
We're providing spaces that enable communities to access a range of play opportunities and enjoy the great outdoors.

**Causeway Crescent Play Area, Linthwaite**

Visit [kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces](http://kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces) to complete our online survey, or scan me...  
You can also call us on 01484 221000 (ext. 70568)

Kirklees COUNCIL

## Engagement

We're starting a rolling plan to engage with local communities about play areas on a site-by-site basis to make sure improvements meet the needs of the community.

Due to the number of play spaces we manage, we may not be asking for comments about every site or our approach to engagement, may be different at different sites.

- [Arlington Way play area](#)
- [Battye Street play area](#)
- [Causeway Crescent, Linthwaite](#)
- [Haywood Avenue](#)
- [Honley People's Park and Jaggars Lane Recreation Ground](#)
- [Lepton Recreation Ground](#)
- [Primrose Hill Play Area, Primrose Hill](#)

[www.kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces)

Planning and development

Home > Leisure and culture > Countryside, parks and open spaces > Playable spaces

## Playable spaces

No matter what your age, outdoor activities and play supports our social development, boosts our physical and mental health and brings us closer to nature. Never has this been more noticeable than during the Covid pandemic when many of us made the most of our local outdoor playable spaces.

Play, in its many different forms, is an essential element of helping children to have the best start in life and supporting people of all ages to live as well as possible, for as long as possible. Our Playable Spaces Strategy, created in partnership with Public Health, builds on knowledge and previous public feedback to address some of the barriers to play to help us instil lifelong habits of physical activity and wellbeing.

**Engagement**  
We're starting a rolling plan to engage with local communities about play areas on a site-by-site basis to make sure improvements meet the needs of the community.

**Social media**

- Kirklees parks and green spaces
- @KirkleesCouncil

**Playable spaces**

- Parks and playgrounds

**Leisure and culture**

- Oakwell Hall
- Town halls events and tickets
- Libraries online resources
- More in leisure and culture



# Engagement process developed with central Engagement team to support analysis...

...results adopted into designs where practicable and uploaded to website



**Kirklees Council**  
**Playable Spaces**  
 People, Places & Play Survey

**Results**  
 Report on the findings from the survey conducted during a consultation period from 20th July to 30th August 2021.

**Summary**  
 A summary of results for each question as it appeared in the survey is detailed below. Please note percentages may vary slightly due to rounding.

**Headline Results**

- The majority of respondents (89%) agreed to some extent with the proposals for the redesigned park (56% Yes / 33% Mostly) with 7% not in full agreement.
- The design feature to generate the highest concern was the proposed sheltered seating area. People were worried that it would attract vandalism, littering and anti-social behaviour from teenagers and groups. 17% of participants selected the angry or sad emoji response when asked if they approved of this feature.
- The most popular suggestion was to include a larger, fenced-in playing court including a netball/basketball hoop that could also be used for multiple different sports. The proposed ball court area is considered too small and more for younger children.
- Other popular suggestions included a skate park and picnic tables.
- The sheltered seating area was the most controversial, with 15% of respondents disagreeing to some extent with the proposal.

**Do you generally agree with the proposed plan to communicate the draft proposals for a new play area directly with the public and gather feedback?**

Yes (15)	58%
Mostly (9)	33%
Not really (2)	7%
No (-)	0%
Not sure / don't know (-)	0%

**Do you generally agree with the proposed plan to communicate the draft proposals for a new play area directly with the public and gather feedback?**

Yes (15)	58%
Mostly (9)	33%
Not really (2)	7%
No (-)	0%
Not sure / don't know (-)	0%

**Are you generally supportive of the proposed design? (Phase 1)**

Yes (15)	58%
Mostly (9)	33%
Not really (2)	7%
No (-)	0%
Not sure / don't know (-)	0%

**Do you have any specific concerns about the play area renovations?**

There were 22 comments received on this question.

- The majority of respondents commented that they had no concerns.
- General safety concerns were the second biggest theme.
- The drainage issues at the park were also mentioned by two respondents.

**Please use the space below to provide any other comments about these proposals:**

There were 33 comments received on this question.

- The majority of comments were positive and in full support of the proposals.
- Several comments reiterated concerns over safety, drainage and ensuring the park was properly maintained.
- Extra equipment, especially for younger children was also mentioned several times.

## Get involved

Thank you to all those who commented on the initial proposals. This consultation is now closed and the project will proceed to delivery phase.

We had 34 responses to the survey which we consider to be a good response rate. The great majority of respondents were generally supportive of both the phase 1 and phase 2 proposals, and all of the features proposed in the phase 1 design. Suggestions for improvements focused primarily on provision for older children and young people.

Whilst it is difficult for us to accommodate this within the budget and space available for the Phase 1 scheme, this will be a focus for Phase 2 developments. This could include more adventurous play equipment for older children, an extension to the footpath which could be used by scooters, and/or static gym equipment. Further consultation will be undertaken prior to the Phase 2 scheme being finalised.

In light of the comments received, we have made some amendments to the designs:

### Playable Spaces

Warburton Rec  
 Playspace - Sketch Design, Phase 1.

**People, Places & Play**  
[kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces](http://kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces)

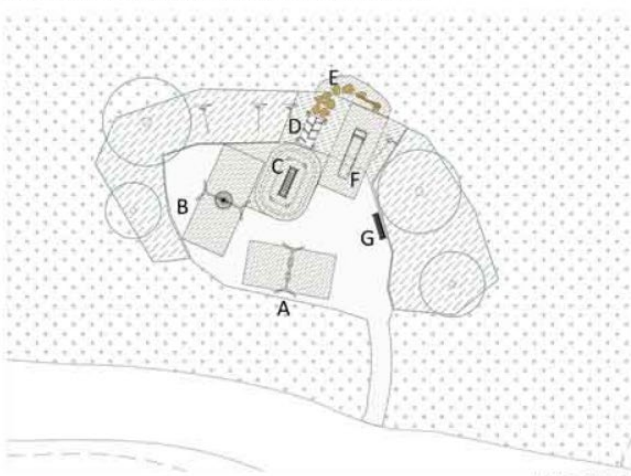


# Multiple sites designed with a place based approach

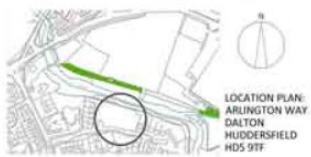
Some phase 1 designs...

## Playable Spaces

ARLINGTON WAY- SKETCH PROPOSALS & MOOD BOARD



SCALE: 1:100 @ A1



People, Places & Play  
kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces

	<b>A</b> Existing swing refurbished - 1 flat seat, 1 cradle seat		<b>B</b> Sutcliffe Play - Basket Swing		<b>C</b> Playdale - City Suspension Bridge		<b>D</b> Play & Leisure - Embankment Ramp		<b>E</b> Scrambling boulders and log up slope & in level surfacing		<b>F</b> GL Jones - Wide Embankment Slide		<b>G</b> Play & Leisure - Oxford bench
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--

	Existing trees to be retained
	Existing embankment vegetation
	Existing embankment vegetation to be removed and turfed
	Proposed eco-mulch safety surfacing
	Proposed new tarmac surface over existing
	Existing grass to be retained

SK04-A - KIRKLEES LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS - SEP 2021

## Playable Spaces

People, Places & Play  
kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces

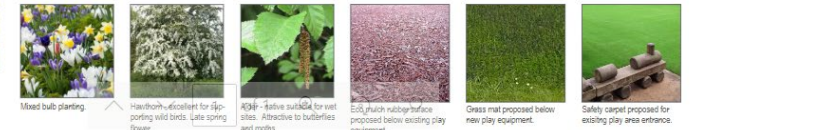
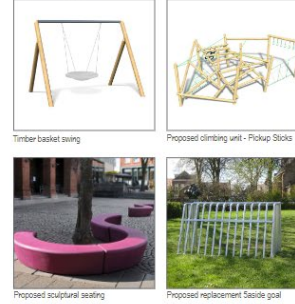
Cemetery Walk, Almondbury



Notes:

This scheme proposes to enhance the existing play area with up-graded play surfacing and repairs to existing play equipment. In addition to this proposed work, additional play equipment is suggested outside the play area; a basket swing (inclusive) and a large climbing. The scheme will also include additional seating, native bulb planting, boundary tree planting and a new relocated mini goal end.

Proposed equipment



# Playable Spaces

People, Places & Play  
kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces

Entrance off Deighton Road:  
Area in front of cycle chicane to be opened up, with existing gate repositioned, additional railing and new bollards.

Location Plan

Informal football

Section of damaged fence to be removed

Area left open for football

Glenfield Avenue

0 5 10 15

Identified Avenue  
Playable Spaces: Station Plan  
L40-422 9/01 - 10 Feb 22  
Drawn: HP, Created: DB

<p>Liquidamber tree</p>	<p>Perennial planting</p>
<p>Existing benches &amp; bin to be refurbished</p>	<p>Steel 2 bay swings with toddler and flat seats</p>
<p>Steel junior climber</p>	<p>Hide &amp; Slide toddler/ junior accessible MPU</p>
<p>Spinner</p>	<p>Chin-up Bar</p>
<p>Small swale to assist drainage, with boulders</p>	<p>Avenue of flowering cherries</p>

THORNCLEIFF ROAD

ASHCROFT CLOSE

Multi play in steel

wobble beam in steel

Burma bridge in steel

Picnic table

Natural stepping stones

Natural boulders

Weave posts

SCALE 1:100 @A1

**PLAY STRATEGY : ASHCROFT CLOSE, STAINCLIFFE.**

Kirklees COUNCIL



# Playable Spaces

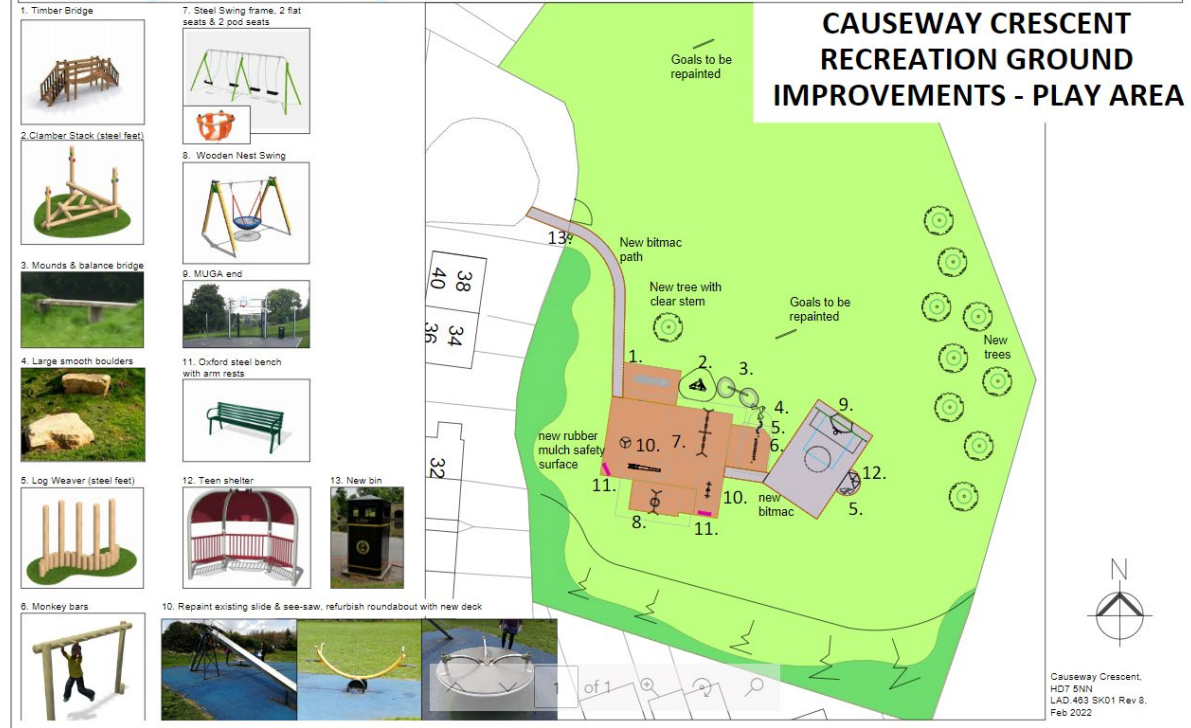
People, Places & Play  
[kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces](http://kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces)



# Playable Spaces

People, Places & Play  
[kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces](http://kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces)

## CAUSEWAY CRESCENT RECREATION GROUND IMPROVEMENTS - PLAY AREA



# Playable Spaces

**People, Places & Play**  
kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces

**1** Proposed grass mound with sleeper turret/lookout, embankment slide, scramble net, stepping logs and inclined balance beam. Rubber grass mat around play elements.

**2** Proposed 2 bay swing with 2 flat seats, 1 cradle seat & 1 inclusive boat seat. Swing on rubber grass mat.

**3** Timber monkey bars, on rubber grass mat.

**4** Liquidamber tree

**5** New bin and bench

**6** Existing concrete foundations broken out  
Existing bench refurbished  
New picnic bench

**7** Alternating avenue of cherry & maple (Prunus padus 'Watereri' & Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset')

Existing trees to remain

Existing trees to remain

**Marten Drive Play Area**

Feb 2022 SK01 Rev F  
Revisions following consultation feedback

# Playable Spaces

**People, Places & Play**  
kirklees.gov.uk/playablespaces

## Warburton Rec Playspace - Sketch Design, Phase 1.

**1** Wokazed Multi-unit - Dinosaurs  
System

**2** Kompan - forest life boat

**3** Kompan - butterfly sensor

**4** Double swing unit - 4 bay

**5** Kompan - forest life boat

**6** Saeflife Inclusive Roundabout

Area identified for further play features. Older age ranges at the opportunity.

Line markings to new timber deck. The could be extended to new grass.

Notes:  
The play equipment for this scheme has been selected to provide 'more alternative play in particular stronger outdoor age 4+'. A basket swing and roundabout provide accessible play for older children. A limited budget means options for surfacing are constrained therefore it is suggested that the existing natural footpath is repaved along with the existing timber round edging. A self-closing gate is proposed to provide an additional barrier to the road. The proposal looks at the option of removing the existing birds round rail on the mound to allow the future to be incorporated into the play area as an additional play element. Natural stepping, a boulder and a curved timber feature as enclosed, add play value and interest. Soft low maintenance planting is shown to enhance the boundaries of the play area and add another age of natural play to the scheme. Imaginative play is also encouraged in the design, a timber boat offers the opportunity for all age ranges to use socially. As their imaginations go and enjoy more non-prescriptive play opportunities. The bike track would have new markings to provide a more interesting circular route. Tree planting would add further structure and some shade. A new picnic bench would replace the existing benches.

**Furniture and Materials Palette**

- Green roof
- 3.5m high treeing fence
- Tree Planting - Silver Birch
- Seed feed carpet
- Grass (mown/flat)
- Low main rubber safety surface
- Accessible picnic bench
- Soft planting

**Further opportunities**

- Introduction of additional nature play features.
- Community involvement with a wider range of planting projects.
- Design sharing on walk or wheel.

LOCATION PLAN  
Word Docx Only Date: 14/02/2022  
Site Address: Warburton, Embsay, Leeds/Warburton HD8 3GP  
Kirklees Council  
LAD:481 LA:100 6



- Completion of other projects

Beaumont Park





# Recent completions

Westerley Way



# Recent completions

MUGA at Broadlands Rec



# Recent completions

Sycamore Rec



# Reporting and Governance



- Fortnightly Project Team meetings and monthly Project & Landscape Architect meetings to review progress and discuss challenges

PLAYABLE SPACES 5 YEAR PROGRAMME																		
SITE INFORMATION																		
Site Name	PDO	LA	Ward	Parent site address	Postcode (either site or closest property to the site)	Original classification	Live PS & other sites	Site Agreement	Engagement option selected 1) Full traditional engagement 2) Design->Cllrs->Community 3) Design->Cllrs	Option 1 consultation	Design Brief	Cllr Design Expected	Cllr Design Complete	Design issued to Cllrs for comment	Pre-consultation design complete	Questionnaire Development	Comms checklist complete	Comm engagement / consultation
Birkenshaw Bottoms	TJ	EW	Birstall and Birkenshaw	Birkenshaw Lane Recreation Ground, Birkenshaw Lane, Birkenshaw, Bradford	BD11 2EY	Comm	Cllr choice launch site - first site(s) selected by Cllrs due to	Cllr choice	2	n/a	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
Birkenshaw Park	TJ	HP	Birstall and Birkenshaw	Birkenshaw Park, Bradford Road, Birkenshaw, Bradford	BD11 2AD	Comm	Live S106	With Birkenshaw Bottoms	3	n/a	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
Broadlands Rec	AM	LC	Holme Valley North	Broadland Recreation Ground, Broadlands Road, Meltham, Holmfirth	HD9 5QY	Comm	Live S106 only	Complete	Complete	Complete	Phase 1 - C Phase 2 - C	Phase 1 - C Phase 2 - C	Phase 1 - C Phase 2 - C	Phase 1 - C Phase 2 - C	Phase 1 - C Phase 2 - C	Phase 1 - C Phase 2 - C	Phase 1 - C Phase 2 - C	Phase 1 - C Phase 2 - C
Bywell Play Area	RP	HP	Dewsbury East	Open Space, Leeds Road, Dewsbury	WF12 7QE	Comm	Live S106/PS project	Agreed	2	n/a	Complete	In progress						
Causeway Crescent	AM	HP	Colne Valley	Causeway Crescent Recreation Ground, Causeway Crescent, Linthwaite, Huddersfield	HD7 5NN	Comm	Cllr choice launch site	Cllr choice	2	n/a	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
Cemetery Walk	TJ	AR	Almondbury	Almondbury Recreation Ground, Cemetery Road, Almondbury, Huddersfield	HD5 8XD	Comm	Cllr agreed launch site	Site 1 agreed	2	n/a	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	In progress		
Cinderhills Rec	AM	MS	Holme Valley South	Cinderhills Recreation Ground, Field Road, Holmfirth	HD9 1EJ	Comm	Live S106/PS project	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
Crow Lane	AM	EW	Golcar	Crow Lane Recreation Ground, Crow Lane, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield	HD3 4QT	Comm	Cllr agreed launch site	Site 1 agreed	2	n/a	Complete	In progress						
Crow Nest Park	RP		Dewsbury West	Crow Nest Park, Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury Moor, Dewsbury	WF13 2LW	Dest	2nd site for DW	Agreed	1	Survey to be developed								
Earlsheaton Park	RP	HP	Dewsbury East	Earlsheaton Park, Cross Park Street, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury	WF12 8JG	Dest	Live S106/PS project	Agreed	2	n/a	Complete	In progress						

Extract from programme tracker

- Feeding into the Parks & Greenspaces reporting governance structure

Implementation Group > Management Group > Transformation Board

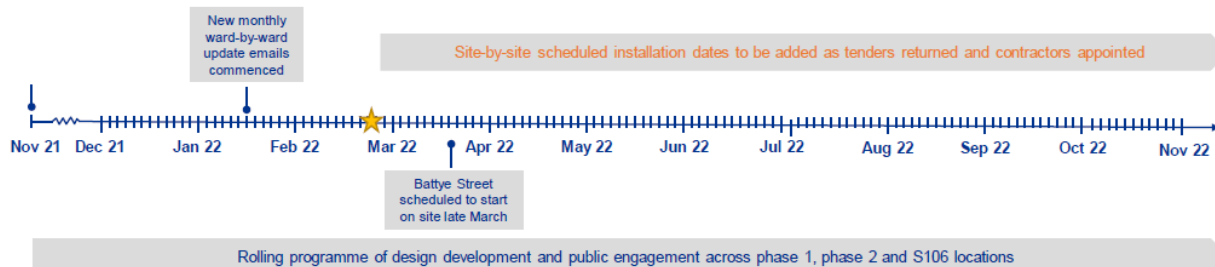


# Monthly Portfolio Lead Report

## Status update – Playable Spaces, 25/02/2022

**Outcome** – to deliver a mixed play portfolio of traditional, adventurous and imaginative play using both play equipment and natural features – with this play portfolio meeting the needs of all within our communities

Project RAG AMBER	Complete	On track	Subject to re-planning	May slip with material impact
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### Summary – Phase 1 Sites

Summary	23/02/2022
Design process	2
Approval process (internal teams and Cllrs)	7
Public engagement (with design)	1
Design amendments, technical design, tender documentation	9
Procurement process	2
Contractor appointment and enabling works	1
On site	0
On hold (Lee Street - underground cellar investigations)	1

### Summary – Phase 2 sites & S106 projects

We are in various stages of bringing the next sites on board:

- Lepton Rec, Almondbury
- Rectory Park, Dewsbury South
- Staincliffe Park, Batley West
- Grange Moor Park & Rec, Kirkburton
- Crow Nest Park, Dewsbury West
- Sunnymead, Denby Dale

Across the various play projects within the team we have just short of 50 sites in different stages of development

### Key risks and (mitigation)

- Capacity and impact on timeline  
We are losing a PDO, therefore sites remain split between PDO's, Project Officer, Prog Manager and Parks Services Manager
- Procurement DPS system  
There is still a backlog as issues are ironed out with this central system, but the team are catching up

### Any issues to report

- Tender return pricing  
Due to inflated costs being seen across the industry, tender returns are coming in high, taking us over budget. This has been highlighted at the Parks & Greenspaces Management meeting with WA and a new Transformation Board with CP. Senior managers are in agreement that whilst we are seeing inflated costs we will sink these and report on Phase 1 overspend to analyse future requirements.

### Activities completed last period & underway

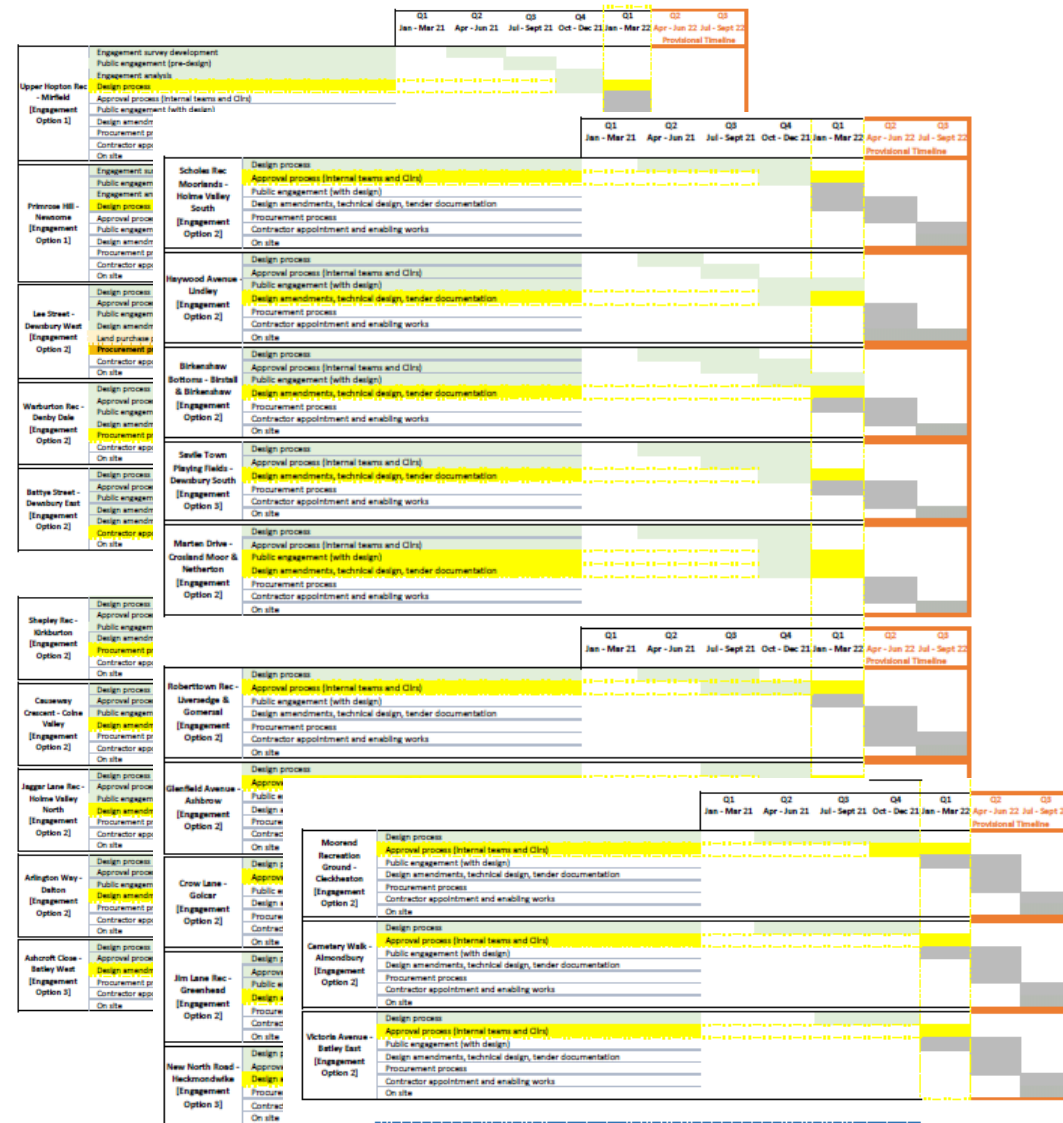
- Monthly reports for February issued – these updates are proving popular with ward members
- Contractor appointed for Battye Street

### Activities due next period

- Battye Street works due to start on site late March 2022

Item	Last period	Current period	Trend
Schedule	Amber	Amber	➡
Resourcing	Amber	Amber	➡
Stakeholders	Green	Green	➡
Outcomes	Green	Green	➡

➡ No change    ⬆ Increased risk    ⬇ Decreased risk



Summary	23/02/2022	24/02/2022	26/02/2022	28/02/2022	01/03/2022
Design process	2	2	4	9	
Approval process (internal teams and Cllrs)	7	6	5	6	
Public engagement (with design)	1	3	3	2	
Design amendments, technical design, tender documentation	9	6	6	4	
Procurement process	2	3	2	2	
Contractor appointment and enabling works	1	0	0	0	
On site	0	0	0	0	
On hold (Lee Street - underground cellar investigations)	0	0	0	0	



# Monthly Councillor Update Reports

**From:** [Daisy McMurdo](#)  
**To:** [Cllr Charles Graves](#); [Cllr Terry Lyons](#); [Cllr Paul G White](#)  
**Cc:** [Catherine Little](#); [Moira Scarff](#); [Alasdair Menzies](#); [Louisa Cristobal](#); [Christina Lee](#); [Helen Proudfoot](#)  
**Subject:** Playable Spaces Update - February 2022 - Holme Valley North  
**Date:** 18 February 2022 15:35:29

Good afternoon Cllrs,

I hope you're well.

Following our recent full Playable Spaces team meeting with Parks Development Officers and the Landscape Architect Team, please see below the February 2022 monthly update email to keep you posted on the status of the Playable Spaces and other play area projects within your ward.



#### Jagger Lane Rec & Honley Peoples Park:

An issue relating to the adjoining PROW at Jagger Lane with a gate in place has been highlighted to us by the internal PROW team. Options to resolve this will be presented to Cllrs as soon as the review of the issue has been completed by officers. We are confident however that we are still able to push forward into procurement of the play scheme despite the ongoing resolution relating to the PROW. Honley Park will go out for tender with Jagger Lane.

#### Broadlands Rec:

The Phase 1 works are still ongoing on site. There has been a slight slip in programme of 1 week due to the weather. We are now planning the public engagement for Phase 2 works and are on track to go out for consultation in March.

#### Meltham Pleasure Grounds:

We are at practical completion however the ground is still too wet to install the grass matting. Until the condition improves we will leave the fencing up around the site.

If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks,

Daisy McMurdo  
Project Support Officer  
Environment & Greenspace  
Flint Street, Fartown, Huddersfield, HD1 6LG  
Tel: 01484 221000



**From:** [Daisy McMurdo](#)  
**To:** [Cllr Bill Armer](#); [Cllr Richard Smith](#); [Cllr John Taylor](#)  
**Cc:** [Catherine Little](#); [Moira Scarff](#); [Alasdair Menzies](#); [Michelle Stevens](#); [Adam Bout](#)  
**Subject:** Playable Spaces Update - February 2022 - Kirkburton  
**Date:** 18 February 2022 15:39:18

Good afternoon Cllrs,

I hope you're well.

Following our recent full Playable Spaces team meeting with Parks Development Officers and the Landscape Architect Team, please see below the February 2022 monthly update email to keep you posted on the status of the Playable Spaces and other play area projects within your ward.



#### Shepley Rec:

This site will go out to procurement through the DPS system next week with a 2 week return period.

#### Grange Moor Park & Grange Moor Rec

It has been agreed that these two sites will be the next sites for development as part of the programme. Initial conversations regarding this will be set up by Moira or Alasdair soon.

#### Highburton Recreation Ground:

Site recently completed and the surplus from the budget will be spent on some small path improvements/maintenance.

#### Westerley Way:

The fence will be taken down on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022, and so the playground will be officially complete and open!

Thank you,

Daisy McMurdo  
Project Support Officer  
Environment & Greenspace  
Flint Street, Fartown, Huddersfield, HD1 6LG  
Tel: 01484 221000



**From:** [Catherine Little](#)  
**To:** [Cllr Manisha Kaushik](#); [Cllr Elin Hill](#); [Cllr Mohammad Sarwar](#)  
**Cc:** [Alasdair Menzies](#); [Daisy McMurdo](#)  
**Subject:** Playable Spaces Update - January 2022 - Crossland Moor & Netherton  
**Date:** 21 January 2022 16:19:00

Good afternoon Cllrs,

I hope you're well.

From this month you will start to receive a monthly update email to keep you posted on the status of the Playable Spaces and other play area projects within your ward. We'll be sending them around the 3-4<sup>th</sup> week of the month following a full Playable Spaces team meeting that's held with Parks Development Officers and the Landscape Architect Team.



#### Marten Drive:

Following the responses received from the engagement exercise we have made a number of changes to the scheme. The engagement showed that this space is highly valued and is very much utilised, therefore additional play provision is required. The new plans are currently going through an internal review and we plan to share the final plan with you in the next couple of weeks, prior to sending back out for public review.

#### Beaumont Park:

This site is complete and is receiving great feedback! The last item to be installed is the main sign welcoming people to the play area. This is in production and installation will be scheduled shortly.



If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks,  
Catherine

Catherine Little  
Programme Manager  
Environment & Greenspace  
Flint Street, Fartown, Huddersfield, HD1 6LG  
Tel: 01484 221000



# Challenges, risks and lessons learnt





## Challenges & Risks

- Team Capacity
  - Parks Development Officers – reduced capacity due to vacancy. To mitigate this a more focused approach has been introduced to allow PDOs, the Programme Manager, the Parks Services Manager and our Project Support Officer to concentrate on where their skill set is best used.
  - Landscape Architects – in summer 2021 we recruited 2 new Landscape Architects whose primary focus is Playable Spaces. We're recruiting a further 2 new Landscape Architects this year as more Phase 2 and Phase 3 sites come on board.
- Design Challenges
  - Capacity – as mentioned above our new LAs joined us in the summer and helped to work through the backlog of phase 1 designs.
  - Budget – some of our site specific budgets are tight and designing to meet expectations can be time consuming, however it also leads to creativity and new ideas.
  - Long term maintenance – our strategy encourages nature and more natural elements to be incorporated into our outdoor play spaces. This is a new and different ask and so to mitigate this we are looking to appoint a dedicated Grounds Maintenance Team whose focus will be to maintain the GM aspects of our more natural-style play areas.
  - Accessible play equipment – we are regularly asked to incorporate accessible play equipment into the new designs. We are doing this where budget allows, but when the right location comes on board, we would also like to explore the option of implementing a flagship accessible play area at one of our destination parks.



## Delivery Lessons Learnt

### External Influences

- Costs and Inflation – inflated costs being seen across the industry are leading to high tender returns which exceed our site budgets. This has been highlighted through our Governance process and senior managers are in agreement that we will absorb these inflated costs in the short term and then report on Phase 1 overspend to analyse future requirements.
- Availability of external contractors – as more sites are going out for tender, we're finding that there are limitations on market capacity. Where this is the case, we're working closely with our Procurement colleagues and also with the contractors to ensure they can meet the required workloads.
- Manufacture and delivery timelines – due to raw material availability and longer delivery times from Europe, lead times are longer than previously experienced, however this is built into the lead-in time to ensure accurate start-on-site dates.

These factors have led us to adapting ways of working and our approach to delivering the programme;

- Site delivery in and out of house – delivery will be split between our internal Play & Construction Team and external contractors
- Procure in batches – to achieve efficiencies external procurement is completed in batches where appropriate
- The S106 programme runs tightly alongside the Playable Spaces programme to ensure resource is managed effectively
- Communication – we appreciate and acknowledge that there can sometimes be long periods of time in between communication with Councillors whilst sites are going through each stage. Therefore, we have introduced our monthly update emails which are being received positively.



# Our current programme portfolio



# Phase 1 programme timeline: March – June 2022

	March	April	May	June
<b>Upper Hopton</b>	Design	Approvals	Engagement	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc
<b>Primrose Hill</b>	Research	Design	Approvals	Engagement
<b>Lee Street</b>	On hold - underground cellar investigation underway			
<b>Warburton Rec</b>	Technical design/tender	Procurement	Contractor / Enabling	On site (TBC)
<b>Battye Street</b>	Procurement	Contractor / Enabling	On site	
<b>Shepley Rec</b>	Procurement	Contractor / Enabling	On site (TBC)	
<b>Causeway Crescent</b>	Technical design/tender doc	Procurement	Contractor / Enabling	On site (TBC)
<b>Jaggar Lane Rec</b>	Technical design/tender doc	Procurement	Contractor / Enabling	On site (TBC)
<b>Arlington Way</b>	Technical design/tender doc	Procurement	Contractor / Enabling	On site (TBC)
<b>Ashcroft Close</b>	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc	Procurement	Contractor / Enabling	On site
<b>Scholes Rec Moorlands</b>	Approval Process		Engagement	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc
<b>Haywood Avenue</b>	Engagement	Technical design/tender doc	Procurement	Contractor / Enabling
<b>Birkenshaw Bottoms</b>	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc		Procurement	Contractor / Enabling
<b>Savile Town Playing Fields</b>	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc		Procurement	Contractor / Enabling
<b>Marten Drive</b>	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc		Procurement	Contractor / Enabling
<b>Roberttown Rec</b>	Approvals		Engagement	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc
<b>Glenfield Avenue</b>	Approvals		Engagement	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc
<b>Crow Lane</b>	Approvals		Engagement	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc
<b>Jim Lane Rec</b>	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc		Procurement	Contractor / Enabling
<b>New North Road</b>	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc		Procurement	Contractor / Enabling
<b>Moorend Rec</b>	Approval Process		Engagement	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc
<b>Cemetery Walk</b>	Approval Process		Engagement	Amendments/Tech design/tender doc
<b>Victoria Avenue</b>	Design	Approval Process	Engagement	Amendments/Tech

Dates are estimated and can be subject to change

Since 2019 works have been undertaken on 14 play areas across the district



# All live projects across Phase 1 & 2, S106 & Trust Fund projects

Norman Park

Arlington Way

Two Furrows Rec

Highburton Rec

Cinderhills

Victoria Avenue

Meltham Pleasure Grounds

Upper Hopton Rec

Birkenshaw Bottoms

Ashcroft Close

Firth Park

Shepley Rec

Jaggar Lane Rec

Earlsheaton Park

Crow Lane

Roberttown Rec

Honley Park

Cemetery Walk

Lepton Rec

Warburton Rec

Hayward Avenue

Grange Moor Park

Wakefield Road

Beaumont Park

West End Park

Bywell Play Area

Sunnymead

Lee Street

Causeway Crescent

Holroyd Park

Primrose Hill

Netherthong Village

New North Road

Birkenshaw Park

The Oval

Scholes Rec Moorlands

Jim Lane Rec

Rectory Park

Battye Street

Grange Moor Rec

Marten Drive

Broadlands Rec

Glenfield Avenue

Goldington Avenue

Moorend Recreation Ground

Savile Town Playing Fields



Open to questions



# ECONOMY & NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

## Agenda Plan 2021/22

	Items	Officer Contact	Notes
<p><b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b></p> <p><b>Agenda Publication:</b> Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021</p>	<p><b>Kirklees Resource and Waste Strategy</b></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><b>Dewsbury Town Centre Update</b></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><b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021</b></p> <p><b>Agenda Publication:</b> Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August</p>	<p><b>Cooper Bridge Update</b></p> <p>Update to Panel ahead of Cabinet Meeting in September</p>	<p>Keith Bloomfield</p>	

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



<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>  <b>Agenda Publication:</b> Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Smaller Towns Programme</b>	Simon Taylor	
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b>  <b>Agenda Publication:</b> Monday 31st January	<b>Kirklees Inclusive Economic Strategy Refresh</b>  <b>Place Partnership Leads – Active Travel Update</b>	Jonathan Nunn  Vina Randhawa	
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022</b>  <b>Agenda Publication:</b> Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>Huddersfield Blueprint Update including the Cultural Heart</b>	Simon Taylor / David Glover	
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b>  <b>Agenda Publication:</b> Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Bus Stations update part of the Transforming Cities Fund</b>  <b>Play areas</b>	Edward Highfield/Richard Hollinson  Will Acornley/ Catherine Little	

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## **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)
- Huddersfield Blueprint Update including the Cultural Heart (March)
- Bus Stations Update, part of the Transforming Cities Fund (April)
- 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 (new municipal year/new timeline)
- Kirklees Inclusive Economic Strategy Refresh (further update agreed for 2022/23)

Chair Briefed on:

- Cultural Heart
- Huddersfield Markets

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