

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 08th October 2019
Title of report: New Street & Cloth Hall Street Public Realm
Purpose of report: To gain approval for detailed design and realisation by 2021



Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes The project will result in spending more than £250K.
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Yes
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name -	Karl Battersby - 27.09.2019
Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Finance, IT and Transactional Services?	Eamonn Croston - 26.09.2019
Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft - 30.09.2019
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Peter McBride - Regeneration Cllr Naheed Mather - Greener Kirklees Cllr Rob Walker - Culture & Environment

Electoral wards affected: Newsome Ward

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, GDPR has been considered. The information in this report does not identify any individuals.

1. Summary

1.1 The improvement of New Street (Ramsden Street to Cloth Hall Street), Cloth Hall Street and Market Place has been identified in the recently published Huddersfield Town Centre “Blueprint” as these streets are considered to be strategically important to the regeneration of the town centre. Cabinet is therefore requested to consider funding the development and delivery of these improvements.

1.2 The improvements will be developed with a holistic design approach, engaging key stakeholders, police, businesses and public, and with an aim to provide a high quality, safe and inviting public environment.

1.3 A high-quality public realm is a core component of the ambition for the Huddersfield Town Centre ‘Blueprint’ and is reinforced by the adopted Huddersfield Town Centre Design Framework, which set the high standard for the public realm. New Street, Market Place and Cloth Hall Street have been classified as “Gold” standard streets, reflecting their importance.

1.4 The broad aims of the improvements are listed below:

- Create playful and creative streets that are inviting and safe public spaces
- Encourage retail activity on these streets
- Create opportunities for events/pop-up markets by providing the necessary infrastructure
- Meet the “Green Street” agenda by introducing more trees and landscaping into the streets
- Create streets that are uncluttered by rationalising signs, street furniture, etc.
- Define routes for delivery vehicles to reduce indiscriminate parking in pedestrianised areas.
- Reduce the time window for deliveries into the pedestrianised areas to reduce conflict between deliveries and pedestrians
- Include new contemporary seating and street furniture that is high quality and easily maintained.
- Provide contemporary lighting throughout
- Provide contemporary quality paving.

2. Information required to take a decision

A provisional layout for the scheme is shown in Appendix 1 and although indicative, a number of outline proposals are highlighted below:

- An area dedicated at the southern end of New Street is proposed to expand the use for alfresco dining.
- An area of New Street close to the junction with Cloth Hall Street is proposed for pop-up markets and outdoor exhibitions.
- Widened pavements are proposed on Market Place and Cloth Hall Street, reflecting the high number of pedestrians that use these streets.
- Addition of several trees and landscaping is proposed.
- A re-alignment of Market Place and Cloth Hall Street are proposed to slow traffic speeds.
- Low kerb heights are proposed on Market Place and Cloth Hall Street to encourage lower speeds and promote pedestrian dominance in the area.

2.1 Design Proposals

- 2.1.1 A copy of the Indicative New Street Scheme Report is attached, including the 'New Standard' Materials and furniture palette for Huddersfield town centre.
- 2.1.2 The Materials Palette also forms supplementary information to the Huddersfield Design Framework Document (HDFTC) and will be used consistently throughout Huddersfield Town centre to provide a quality public realm. New Street, Market Place and Cloth Hall Street are designated as "Gold" Standard within the Design Framework. The street design will adopt the principles set-out in the framework.
- 2.1.3 The palette has been developed in line with current visual impairment guidelines which helps to create more inclusive streets and spaces.
- 2.1.4 These proposals will be developed collaboratively and encourage more outdoor activity and well-being, and incorporate, where possible:
- Public art.
 - Opportunities for pop up shops/stalls with IT infrastructure for events.
 - Facilities for additional power supplies for improved Christmas lighting provision.
- 2.1.5 It is also proposed that the improvements will be developed following the principles of the police initiative, "Secured by Design", to create a secured, safe environment. This will include measures and design that discourages anti-social behaviour and criminal activities. Counter terrorism measures will also be considered to provide a proportionate level of security for the anticipated risks.
- 2.1.6 Trees in planters, together with structural artwork/growing frameworks, also allow for versatile use of the space available in our Town Centre.
- 2.1.7 The adopted palette will include the use of natural stone products, and some natural stone products are likely to come from quarries outside the UK. It is proposed that all stone supply contracts will be with suppliers who have undertaken appropriate actions to remove the risks of modern slavery practices within their supply chain. The suppliers we will use will be required to show evidence of their practices, audits and actions undertaken.

2.2 Loading, Parking and Access

- 2.2.1 The proposal to increase pavement widths and providing trees and landscaping is likely to reduce the available on-street Pay and Display parking.

It is proposed to rationalise the loading and parking bays on Market Place and Cloth Hall Street and remove the dual use bays that currently exist, prioritising disabled access where possible.

- 2.2.2 The pedestrian zone of New Street has time restrictions for loading and deliveries (4.00 pm through to 10.00 am the following morning). It is proposed that these time restrictions are extended to Market Place and Cloth Hall Street to reduce the conflicts with pedestrians.
- 2.2.3 It is likely that some features will be needed to provide adequate crowded area security, whilst still permitting access for commercial activities. Such features are currently under consideration and link with other activities/proposals in the Town Centre, and will include the implications of access arrangements, 24-hour monitoring, and call-out/maintenance contracts.

3 Implications for the Council

3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

- 3.1.1 Green spaces and green streets can support the removal of air pollution and make health cost savings. This scheme will deliver on the principles of the HTCDF to create and maintain high quality green infrastructure throughout the town centre. This will support workplace wellbeing through enhancing green spaces and improving the public realm; incorporating street tree planting within the town centre will help remove pollution.
- 3.1.2 Trees in particular, provide a wide range of services and account for most of the volume of air pollutants absorbed by natural vegetation in the UK.
- 3.1.3 Huddersfield Town Centre is currently identified in the Council's Air Quality Action (AQA) plan, where its residents are subject to poor air quality, and the current total pollution removed by vegetation in the town centre is approximately 137kg. This is very low compared to the UK average of 5619kg (as per Office for National Statistics, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology – [Click here to look at the figures for postcodes around the town centre UK air pollution removal how much pollution does vegetation remove in your area /2018-07-30.](#)
- 3.1.4 Huddersfield Town Centre has air pollution levels above National Objectives and European Directive limits/target values. The Council is about to launch its "10 AQMA" areas (Air Quality Management Areas), which includes the town centre, the area within the ring road, and route to Aspley, affecting upwards of 1400 residential properties. The framework will aim to focus on landscape design opportunities and street tree planting to maximise air quality improvements and help underpin and meet the requirements of the overall Kirklees plan.

3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

- 3.2.1 The aim is to create a safe and vibrant town centre to unlock potential by attracting and retaining businesses and investment in the town; boosting the local economy; and transforming the public realm to provide high quality, versatile settings in which they can flourish. Attractive, superior urban environments do attract inward investment, and distinctive greening in the town centre will attract shoppers and visitors, improving pedestrian footfall through the increased volume of public, customers and workforce.
- 3.2.2 According to a recent report on eating out in town centres, by Springboard and the NPD Group, improved performance of high streets is being driven by a booming and inventive food and drink sector, such as street food or markets. This scheme will incorporate the space and infrastructure to develop pop-up markets and thus build on the food sector.

- 3.2.3 According to Historic England in its report on the changing face of the high street, at a time when people are increasingly looking for a leisure experience rather than simply a range of shops to visit, investing in the public realm and streetscape can be used to give town centres a potentially competitive advantage.
- 3.2.4 This scheme aims to enhance town centre greening. Through strategic tree planting, public realm enhancement using inventive landscape design (e.g. use of furniture, public art installations, lighting) the appearance and attractiveness of the town centre will be improved, and a coherent approach achieved. The aim to also reduce maintenance liabilities.
- 3.2.5 This scheme will aid development of a 'spine' for the town centre of culture and night time economy, running through the town, linking the ends of the town from the Railway Station to the University. This backbone will build on and link up the existing pockets of vibrant growing cultural activity and economy.

3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

- 3.3.1 By making public spaces seem more welcoming and providing opportunities for social interaction, this scheme of high-quality public realm should provide opportunities to increase the number of people of all ages who are out on the streets.
- 3.3.2 Increasing the attractiveness and appeal of the public realm to users, especially by enriching them as green spaces, and ensuring better accessibility, will increase their use. The scheme will incorporate street tree planting aiming to draw in and welcome families and young people by providing shelter and shade, creating a positive image.

3.4 Reducing demand of services

- 3.4.1 The HDFTC was a collaboration of many departments including Planners, Highways Engineers, Construction, Maintenance, Landscape Architects and Public Health, thereby identifying a consistent and appropriate design and specification of materials and ensuring long term sustainable maintenance. This scheme will be in-line with the HDFTC in its principles of high quality, de-cluttering and reducing future maintenance.
- 3.4.2 The scheme also takes account of the assets within our Conservation Area and by using the range of gold, silver and bronze standards, complements the listed buildings. It aims to accommodate and deal appropriately with heavily trafficked streets and bus routes.
- 3.4.3 It is considered that investment in our town centre will give our citizens a sense of identity, will restore pride in our town centre and inspiration to take care of their own environment. The aim is that by the provision of this high-quality environment there will be less littering, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour thus reducing the need for Council intervention.

3.5 Legal/Financial or Human Resources

- 3.5.1 There is a need for allocations to be drawn down from the Town Centre Capital Plan to ensure that quality places are created, current environmental condition issues within the town centre are addressed to the appropriate standard, and to meeting the ideals set out in the framework.

- 3.5.2 This funding will allow the upgrading of some of the key areas in our town centre and create a ‘spine’ of high-quality public realm through Huddersfield. In order to develop and deliver on this scheme an investment amount of £5.25m is required.
- 3.5.3 The Temporary and Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders are likely to be required to harmonise loading times between New St, Cloth Hall St and Market St and to implement the scheme itself. These will be subject to the typical formal consultation and advertisement process.
- 3.5.4 An outline scheme estimate and programme is shown below and includes a substantial consideration of contingency, reflecting that the proposals are only at the concept stage of the design process and to allow for matters arising from consultation. Within the programme outlined, the Council will ensure that, if necessary, works are suspended or completed prior to the pre-Christmas period in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Preliminary Estimate	£ 000's
Construction (inc. paving, cellar treatment and street lighting)	£2,170
Trees and Landscaping	£800
Counter Terrorism Measures	£100
CCTV	£50
Contingencies	£1,470
Fee's (inc. surveys/investigations)	£660
Total	£5,250

Preliminary Programme																
Activity	Jan-Mar 2020		Apr-Jun 2020		Jul-Sept 2020		Oct-Dec 2020		Jan-Mar 2021		Apr-Jun 2021		Jul-Sept 2021		Oct-Dec 2021	
Investigations																
Feasibility Design																
Public Consultation																
Detailed Design																
Construction																

4. Consultees and their opinions

Initial consultation has been carried out with counter terrorism advisors, the Police Architectural Liaison Officer and CCTV to gain a reduction in policing, and improved public safety. Further consultation is outlined in the Programme above.

5. Next steps

Following approval, the scheme will progress to detailed design stage, include further consultation and ultimate delivery on site.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

Approve the £5.25million capital funding for further design and consultation, to enable realisation of the improved New Street and Cloth Hall Street.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Cabinet Portfolio Holders for:

- Regeneration - Cllr Peter McBride
- Greener Kirklees - Cllr Naheed Mather
- Culture and Environment - Cllr Rob Walker

Support this report and its recommendations as it promotes the beginning of the implementation of the "The Huddersfield Blueprint" and the works are in line with the approved "Huddersfield Town Centre Design Framework"

8. Contact officer

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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Huddersfield 'Blueprint' 2019
Huddersfield Design Framework 2017

10. Strategic Director responsible

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