

Name of meeting: Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel
Date: 3rd July 2023
Title of report: Local Centres Update

Purpose of report:

To update the Panel on progress being made on the Local Centres programme.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £500k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/A
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u> ?	Key Decision – N/A Private Report/Private Appendix - No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	David Shepherd – 20 th June 2023
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	N/A
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Councillor Graham Turner – Portfolio Holder for Regeneration

Electoral wards affected: Batley, Cleckheaton, Colne Valley, Heckmondwike, Holme Valley South

Ward councillors consulted: Those in Batley, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike and Holmfirth are actively engaged in the local centres programme. Ward Councillors in Marsden are aware of Marsden Levelling Up Round 2 bid and have been part of a recent place standards exercise. They were recently briefed on the 27th June Cabinet paper.

Public or private: Public.

Has GDPR been considered? Yes.

1. Summary

The paper updates panel on the latest position on the local centres programme. In particular the additional funding drawn into the programme via the Levelling Up Fund.

2. Information required to take a decision.

Background

2.1 Investment in local centres represents an exciting opportunity to strengthen key towns and villages across Kirklees. Cabinet agreed at its meeting of 16th March 2021 the following summarised matters:

1. To agree the next tranche of town centres for investment namely: Batley, Cleckheaton, Holmfirth, and Heckmondwike
2. All to benefit from additional £1.5m per centre allocated as part of the Council's Capital Plan
3. To delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Growth and Regeneration to approve individual plans and projects in consultation with the Portfolio holder regeneration.
4. To agree the generic list of project or programme types that funding can be used towards
5. To note and/or agree timeframe for delivery; staffing resources to support this initiative and general governance arrangements.

2.2 The full report can be found at the link below:

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s40077/V5%20Final%20Small%20Centres%20Cab%20Report%2016th%20March%202021.pdf>

2.3 This programme is a large undertaking with 4 consultation and masterplan activities being undertaken either at the same time or in quick succession. The progress to date is set out in table 1 below:

Table 1 - Local Centres – Progress to Date

Centre	Core Exercise		Dates Undertaken or Completed
Batley	Place Standard	Round 1	12 th July – 9 th Aug 2021
		Round 2 - Prioritisation	February 2022
	Masterplan Consultation		21 st Oct – 21 st Nov 2022
	Masterplan Adoption		Summer 2023
Cleckheaton	Place Standard	Round 1	1 st Sept – 11 th Oct 2021
		Round 2 - Prioritisation	June 2022
	Masterplan Consultation		29 th June – 29 th July 2022
	Masterplan Adoption		10 th Feb 2023
Heckmondwike	Place Standard	Round 1	4 th Oct – 8 th Nov 2021
		Round 2 - Prioritisation	June 2022
	Masterplan Consultation		19 th May - 19 th June 2023
	Masterplan Adoption		Autumn 2023
Holmfirth	Place Standard	Round 1	6 th Sept – 31 st Oct 2022
		Round 2 - Prioritisation	May 2022
	Masterplan Consultation		17 th Nov – 17 th Dec 2022
	Masterplan Adoption		26 th May 2023

2.4 As part of this exercise, in each centre, a series of priority projects have been identified for development and delivery. Table 2 below highlights these:

Table 2 - Local Centres – Priority Projects

Centre	Key Project Identified	Intended Next Step
Batley	Commercial Street Phase 1	Now a LUF2 project
	Commercial Street Phase 2	Now a LUF2 project
	Market Place	Now a LUF2 project
	Tesco Link	Now a LUF2 project

Cleckheaton	Savoy Square & Market	Procure multi-dis team to design scheme – Summer 23
	Spenneth Bottoms & Park Entrance	Procure multi-dis team to develop a feasibility study for the area – Summer 23
	Market Place	Being delivered through TCF - A638 scheme, following full business case approval from WYCA – Likely delivery - Autumn 23
Heckmondwike	This requires finalisation following analysis of consultation results which ended on 19 th June 2023.	Examination of consultation feedback on Masterplan
Holmfirth	Access Plan	Being Delivered through WYCA funding – Starting Summer 2023.
	Towngate	Procure multi-dis team to develop options for the site – Summer 23
	Gateway & wayfinding Project	Undertake feasibility study for options and estimated costs – Autumn 23
	River Holme Masterplan	Procure multi-Dis team to develop a feasibility study for the area – Summer 23

External Funding

- 2.5 As with all town centre programmes officers continue to identify external funding sources to help deliver projects. The local centres and major projects services have been successful in bidding to government for several funding streams in particular Levelling Up funding (Round 2), the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), Transforming Cities Fund (TCF), Street for People and Active Travel Funds. All of which, as highlighted below, will assist in delivering on core masterplan objectives.

Levelling Up Funding (LUF2)

- 2.6 In early 2022 central government announced the second round of Levelling Up Funding (LUF2). The process was competitive. In the early announcements (late 2022) Batley was selected. A project worth £14.385m is now funded with a grant of £12.0032m coming from LUF2. A further announcement was made in the budget in March 2023 for Marsden which allocated £5.605m to the redevelopment of New Mill. Details of both projects are set out below in paragraphs 2.9 to 2.11.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

- 2.7 To help with project development in the local centres programme a number of bids have been made to UKSPF. As a result, the following have been secured:
- £120,000 additional masterplanning/feasibility resource – some of this will go towards local centres masterplan work.
 - £285,000 – towards project development in Cleckheaton and Holmfirth.

- 2.8 Members are referred to the cabinet report and decision relating to UKSPF from 11th October 2022. See link below:

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s48490/USKPF%2011%20October%20Cabinet%20v4%20final.pdf>

The Batley Project

- 2.9 The Batley LUF2 project consists of a town centre wide programme of interventions which can be split into five elements:

1. Commercial Street – Phase 1 – a series of street scape improvements between Market Square and Wards Hill – particularly tackling some of the issues of parking outside of allocated bays and anti-social driver behaviour.
2. Commercial Street – Phase 2 – adjustments to Commercial Street between Wards Hill and Hick Lane to create a better visitor/customer environment balancing this with needs of businesses.
3. A Public Realm link between the Tesco car park and Commercial Street.
4. Improvements to Market Square and Market Place public realm areas to create better and modern public space which is fit for the future.
5. A refit of the former JBL building on Commercial Street

The Marsden Project

- 2.10 New Mill on Broughton Road in Marsden has been awarded LUF2 funding. This project is a private sector led project with funding awarded as gap to address viability issues associated with the redevelopment of this substantial mill complex. The Council in this instance will act in its role as responsible body and will administer the grant allocated to it by DLUHC. The concept scheme proposes a mix of commercial, retail, and residential space across the mill complex. A level of demolition is proposed.
- 2.11 The timeframe for delivery on both was March 2025 but officers understand that due to a variety of factors this is likely to be extended to March 2026.

Discussion

- 2.12 Strategically, the Local Centres Programme has so far been successful. Through place standard and masterplan engagement it has connected the Council, through ward members, with local communities to shape a longer-term vision and strategy for local town centres. The process has identified, or is in the process of identifying, a series of interventions to strengthen individual towns.
- 2.13 From a funding perspective the initial commitment has levered in an additional £18m of combined LUF2 and UKSPF funding. This figure is further expanded by the private sector investment that will need to be put into Marsden New Mill which potentially takes this figure beyond £30m. We can add to this the prior investment from WYCA in Holmfirth of approximately £5.2m for the access scheme and the WY Local Transport Plan Streets for People Funding (going into the Batley programme) of £1m. In addition, a significant capital investment is being made into Heckmondwike bus station of £4.9m meaning investment from outside the Council into our identified local centres projects is over £40m once recent Active Travel Funding from West Yorkshire Combined Authority is included and is in addition to investment in stations and the rail line as part of Trans-Pennine Route Upgrade.

Levelling Up – Round 2 Awards

- 2.14 Cabinet will be considering (27th June 2023) a proposal to accept external funding of just over £12m from the Government to support delivery of the Batley Town Centre LUF project and likewise accept external funding of £5.605m to support delivery of the Marsden project. In the case of the latter, Members should note that the Council will act as Accountable Body for the grant and administer it accordingly.

Local Centres Projects

- 2.15 It can be seen from the tables in section 2.3 and 2.4 that progress has been made on engagement, master planning and project identification on all the originally identified centres of Batley, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike and Holmfirth. Officers are moving into the project development and delivery phase for most of the centres.

Marsden

- 2.16 Marsden is potentially a new addition to the local centres programme. This is brought about by the LUF2 award of funding set out above as well as investment in the station and line as part of

the Trans Pennine Route Upgrade (TRU). This combination means that Marsden, in the opinion of officers, requires some support particularly in terms of visioning, master planning and setting a future strategy for improvements to the main centre that complement the investment identified. The ward has recently undergone a place standard exercise which is helpful and will provide a source of community-based information to support this.

- 2.17 To complete the masterplan work, officers are utilising the UKSPF funding identified in section 2.7.
- 2.18 Once the master planning is complete and projects identified further funding will be required to assist with delivery. Officers will pursue funding opportunities external to the Council to develop and deliver those identified.

3. Implications for the Council

Financial Implications

- 3.1 None specifically as a result of this report.

Working with people

- 3.2 Collaborating with partners is key to ensuring the Council get the best outcomes for citizens, communities, and Kirklees as a whole. As part of the local centres programme considerable engagement through place standards and master planning has been undertaken. This process will continue as projects move through the development phases. In Batley further engagement with businesses and town centre users will be required as the schemes get developed in more detail. This should help shape the projects.

Working with Partners

- 3.3 The Council has engaged with members of the public and landowners, businesses, and stakeholders during development of Masterplans this will continue as individual interventions are worked up. Officers will continue to develop relationships with partnerships/colleagues in DLUHC and the developers/property owners in Marsden as part of the levelling up agreements.

Place Based Working

- 3.4 The development of the Local Centres Masterplans is informed by Place Standard engagement exercises. This has already engaged town centre stakeholders, businesses, and users to help shape the overall approach to redeveloping the identified areas. Each masterplan in turn has used this information to formulate proposals which strengthen individual centres.

Climate Change and Air Quality

- 3.5 Both climate change and air quality will be considerations of masterplans and projects moving forward, informing the planning processes and the future detailed design work.. For example, the promotion of better connectivity through the area and to surrounding communities particularly via active travel will contribute to reducing adverse transport derived impacts on communities and improve public health.

Improving outcomes for children

- 3.6 All masterplans seek to create more family friendly environments. Additionally, streets and spaces will be designed with all generations in mind making them both safe and inclusive at the same time.

Cost of Living Crisis

- 3.7 Improved local centres will create a more attractive environment for businesses to thrive helping to stimulate the creation of a variety of new job opportunities.

4. Consultees and their opinions

As noted in various sections above engagement has been at the heart of local centre programme development. This will continue through the next stage of the masterplan and project delivery.

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

Officers recommend that:

1. Members of the Scrutiny Panel note the content of this report.

6. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's Comments

Cllr Graham Turner has commented below:

Despite tough economic times its still the ambition of the cabinet to invest and help regenerate our smaller town centres.

I particularly welcome the LUF funding for Marsden which has the potential to start the process of regenerating the town centre and dealing with the problem of what to do with old mills.

There is huge potential in future years for Marsden to become a much more vibrant economic centre, with the Trans Pennine upgrade playing a huge part in the future of the town.

I fully support all the investment across the borough and look forward to seeing these projects start, in line with the timetables in today's report.

7. Contact officer(s)

Simon Taylor – Head of Town Centre Programmes

8. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Cabinet Report – 16th March 2021 – Investing in Small Town Centres

Cabinet Report – 11th October 2022 - UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Cabinet Report – 27th June 2023 – Levelling Up Fund Round 2 and Local Centres

9. Service Director responsible

Joanne Bartholomew – Service Director Development and Co-Vid Recovery