

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 26 May 2020
Title of report: Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint -
 Supplementary Planning Document

Purpose of report:

To seek approval to the adoption of the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplementary Planning Document.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes Expenditure >£250,000 and affects more than 1 ward (Newsome, Greenhead and Dalton)
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Yes
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Karl Battersby - 09.04.20 Eamonn Croston - 13.05.20 Julie Muscroft - 14.05.20
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr McBride

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted:

A Member workshop was held 23rd October 2018 to shape the Blueprint document and a briefing session prior to the launch of the Blueprint in June 2019.

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? The report does not contain any personal data. The storage of information collected in response to the proposed consultation on the SPD in March will be in accordance with the Planning Policy Privacy Note.

1. **Summary**

Supplementary Planning Documents are produced to add clarity in relation to the application of planning policies set out in the Local Plan. The benefit of converting the Huddersfield Blueprint to a Supplementary Planning Document is that its weight as a planning tool will add greater support to the delivery of Huddersfield Town Centre Regeneration Programme including potential funding applications for the delivery of key sites and transport schemes identified in the Huddersfield Blueprint.

The Huddersfield Blueprint has already been used to share ambitions with partners and funders in order to secure delivery of key projects. Since the last report to Cabinet on 25 February 2020, the council has agreed to acquire the George Hotel, and this will be subject to a separate Cabinet Report, and is continuing to work with partners on key projects.

This Supplemental Planning Document can be used to support any Compulsory Purchase Orders in Huddersfield Town Centre which the council may undertake in the future.

2. **Information required to take a decision**

The Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplementary Planning Document (**SPD**) was subject to a four-week public consultation commencing on 2nd March 2020, running until 30th March 2020 including all statutory consultees and interested stakeholders.

Some minor changes are proposed to the SPD as a result of the consultation. A schedule of comments received and proposed changes are outlined at Appendix 1.

Summary of main changes included:

- Updating of key projects;
- Additional references to council's climate emergency including references to council's target of 2038 for the district to achieve net zero carbon emissions, updating of text on Heat and Power network and benefits of addressing climate change; and
- Additional references to support Huddersfield as an inclusive, family friendly town.

Many comments received requested that the SPD contain additional detail on the design and implementation of schemes. This level of detail is not proposed to be included in the SPD. The intention is that the SPD will be supported by a suite of planning tools including the Huddersfield Town Centre Area Action Plan (**AAP**), design guidance and, where appropriate, design briefs. The comments received will be used to inform these pieces of work.

The revised SPD is attached at Appendix 2.

3. **Implications for the Council**

• **Working with People**

The production of the SPD has involved early engagement with internal and external colleagues who will continue to be involved in the SPD process. The consultation process has provided an opportunity for stakeholders to shape and inform the vision for the town centre and the document will enable communities to understand the focus and priorities for town centre regeneration in Huddersfield Town Centre. A key focus for the SPD is on promoting and creating opportunities for a family friendly, inclusive and welcoming town centre. This is outlined in the vision for the town centre contained in the revised document and additional proposed changes on family friendly access and use are proposed as a result of the consultation (See Appendix 1).

- **Working with Partners**

Collaboration and joint working on the SPD is outlined in paragraph 2 above. The SPD will enable developers and statutory consultees to understand the council's focus and priorities for town centre regeneration, it will be used alongside the Kirklees Local Plan to promote high quality development and can be used to support funding bids for delivery.

The SPD will be used as part of the early engagement for the AAP (agreed by cabinet December 2019 as part of the revised Local Development Scheme). The AAP will be the tool to deliver allocations and detailed policies to support the delivery of town centre sites and priorities. This will address many of the detailed comments received through the SPD consultation with regard to the design and implementation of key sites.

- **Place Based Working**

The use of the Place standard tool provided a valuable tool to shape and inform the SPD. Outcomes of this exercise can be viewed via the following link:

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/2019/11/20/how-do-you-feel-about-huddersfield-results/>

The SPD seeks to bring new uses to Huddersfield Town Centre and act as a catalyst for regeneration making it a place that people want to use for a variety of uses helping the vitality and vibrancy of the area.

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

The SPD contains a strong focus on improving public transport, walking and cycling including better connections across Huddersfield to improve active/sustainable travel as a whole. This includes the Bus and Rail improvements and Cross Church Street proposals as examples. This will contribute to reducing emissions and improved air quality.

The focus on re-using town centre buildings and bringing them back into re-use will also contribute to the climate change agenda through reducing the need for new building.

- **Improving outcomes for children**

A key focus for the SPD is on promoting and creating opportunities for a family friendly, inclusive and welcoming town centre.

- **Co-Vid 19**

The potential impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the town centre emphasises more than ever the need to have a robust, planning framework in place to help deliver town centre regeneration, demonstrate that the town has a clear vision for the future and that it is open for business and development opportunities. It will help support funding and delivery aspirations of key projects identified within the Blueprint SPD. The adoption of the SPD will provide evidence and a framework for the emerging Huddersfield Area Action Plan which will contain detailed policies and site specific policies to deliver the SPD and to secure quality development within our town centre. Furthermore we are expecting a continued focus on town centres from government which may bring forward further funding opportunities. A planning document with cabinet backing is an ideal starting point to access these funds.

Officers do not consider that Co-Vid impacted on the level of consultation responses received. Nearly 100 comments were made from a range of statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and the public. The consultation was undertaken in line with the council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (December 2019) and included the opportunity to comment on-line and via post. Information on the Blueprint SPD and supporting documents was published on the website.

All stakeholders who had been involved in previous early engagement on the Blueprint were contacted by letter and invited to comment. The council also took the opportunity as part of an exercise to update its Planning Policy contacts to inform organisations/individuals that the Blueprint SPD was subject to consultation and the timescales for this.

The SPD consultation followed a year of consultation on the Blueprint commencing with the launch in June 2019, consultation on a draft Blueprint June – October 2019 and ongoing meetings with key stakeholders.

- **Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Financial implications for the delivery of projects are identified in the SPD and opportunities for current/future funding bids.

Existing resources within the Planning Policy Team will be used to take the SPD through the statutory planning process to adopt the SPD subject to endorsement by cabinet.

The delivery of the Town Centre programme including outputs from the SPD will be managed and co-ordinated by the Head of Town Centre Regeneration.

- **Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)** An IIA has been completed and can be viewed on the council's website. This indicates that a stage 2 assessment is not required.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The SPD has been prepared in accordance with the legal regulations and has been subject to 4 weeks of public consultation which took place from 2nd March – 30th March 2020. This consultation process has resulted in some minor changes to the document. Comments and responses received through the consultation are set out in Appendix 1. An assessment of the impact of Co-vid 19 is set out under section 4.

Appendix 1 outlines the responses received to the consultation and proposed changes to the SPD. These comments will be used to update the consultation report for the SPD which is required to be published as part of the adoption process.

5. Next steps and timelines

If Cabinet is minded to approve the SPD for adoption, it will be necessary to advertise this and publish the relevant documents. Whilst the provisions of the SPD become operative from the time of the resolution of Cabinet any person aggrieved by the SPD has a period of 3 months from the date of adoption to appeal to the High Court.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

Officers recommend that Cabinet:-

- 6.1 approve the adoption of the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplemental Planning Document produced at Appendix 2 of this report;
- 6.2 authorise officers to carry out the necessary formal procedures for adoption of the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplemental Planning Document;
- 6.3 delegate authority to the Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure to make any further non-material additional modifications to the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplemental Planning Document that that arise as part of the adoption process.

The reasons for these recommendations are that the weight of the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplemental Planning Document as a planning tool will add greater support to the delivery of Huddersfield Town Centre Regeneration Programme including

potential funding applications for the delivery of key sites and transport schemes identified in the Huddersfield Blueprint.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder recommends that Cabinet:

- 7.1 approve the adoption of the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplemental Planning Document produced at Appendix 2 of this report;
- 7.2 authorise officers to carry out the necessary formal procedures for adoption of the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplemental Planning Document;
- 7.3 delegate authority to the Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure (or the Strategic Director (or any person acting up to that post on an interim basis) with responsibility for the Huddersfield Town Centre in their area of responsibility) to make any further non-material additional modifications to the Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint Supplemental Planning Document that that arise as part of the adoption process.

8. Contact officer

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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

- Huddersfield Blueprint June 2019
- Huddersfield Town Centre Blueprint March 2020
- Huddersfield Blueprint Integrated Impact Assessment
- Huddersfield Blueprint On-line Questionnaire Feedback
- Huddersfield How Good is Our Place Feedback
<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/2019/11/20/how-do-you-feel-about-huddersfield-results/>
- Huddersfield Blueprint Consultation Feedback Report
- Huddersfield Blueprint Strategic Environmental Assessment

10. Service Director responsible

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