

Subject:	Update Report - National Lottery Heritage Fund 'Big Lamp'	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Full Council	Date:	18 th August 2022
Report of:	Director of Economic Development	Portfolio Holder:	Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
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1. RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1 That members note the contents of this report

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The purpose of this report is to update members on progress made with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Haslingden Big Lamp project which will see building repairs and improvements, public realm improvements, restoration of vacant floor space, engagement and training programmes and complementary micro grants.
- Council has delegated authority for this project to the Haslingden Strategic Board.
- Following a successful tender exercise, Rosslee Construction has been appointed as the PSiCA contractors
- Capital works will start on site in the coming months once grant agreements are completed.
- The tender package for the public realm improvements is due to be published this quarter with a view to appointing an approved contractor and finalising the S278 legal agreement between the Council and County Council before a start on site in late 2022.
- Community engagement and training opportunities are ongoing along with other elements of the project such as the communications plan.

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 The NLHF Big Lamp project is a five year, £2.3 million project to invest in Higher Deardengate, Haslingden. The Big Lamp project is one of several projects that make up the Haslingden 2040 Vision and Masterplan which sets out support town centre and high street regeneration, improve community cohesion and well-being, boost business sustainability and resilience and to showcase Haslingden’s cultural and heritage assets.
- 3.2 This is the first and only project of its kind in the current NLHF funded programme across England.

4. DETAILS:

Rossendale's strategic context:

4.1 The Council's Corporate Strategy identifies a thriving economy as one of its priorities. This is supported by the Council's Economic Development Strategy of which the number one priority is town centres. The Council has also adopted, following extensive community and business consultation, Haslingden 2040 Vision and Masterplan that set out our 20-year priorities for Haslingden town centre.

Haslingden Strategic Board:

4.2 The aims of the Partnership Board are:

- To guide the management and delivery of the Haslingden 2040 Vision and NLHF Big Lamp;
- To provide additional skills, expertise and capacity to the project team where possible in order to ensure the delivery of the Big Lamp project.

4.3 The current key functions and responsibilities of the Partnership Board are:

- To advise on, manage and monitor performance and delivery against the Haslingden Big Lamp project plan;
- To ensure that links are established and maintained with other relevant community activity;
- To regularly feedback and inform Board Members' individual organisations of the delivery of the Big Lamp and identify areas where their organisations may add to the capacity of the Big Lamp project team;
- To ensure that systems are in place for monitoring the progress of the Big Lamp project;
- To review the Big Lamp project plan on a regular basis in the light of progress, and to advise on updates as necessary;
- To oversee the delivery of a marketing, promotion and publicity programme;
- To oversee the delivery of the activity strategy agreed and submitted as part of the Round 2 bid and within the context of the Big Lamp project plan;
- To agree limits for delegated applications for grant aid eligible works under the PSiCA element of the project, within the approved budgets, in accordance with the criteria set;
- To determine non-delegated applications for grant aid eligible works under the Big Lamp project within the approved budgets, in accordance with the criteria set;
- To undertake regular reviews of the Partnership Board's management and delivery processes (including the membership of the Board) in the interest of optimising progress against the Big Lamp project plan.

Appointed external consultants:

4.4 The Board, CMT and NLHF have approved the re-appointment of the project architects who are very experienced Conservation accredited architects. A number of other professionals have also been appointed under the contractual agreements with the project architects (as design teams leaders) and these include, but are not limited to; quantity surveyors, landscape architects, civil engineers, M&E, structural engineers.

Haslingden 2040:

- 4.5 The Council consulted on the Haslingden 2040 Vision & Masterplan & the Deardengate Big Lamp National Lottery Heritage Fund project between 3rd August 2020 and 25th September 2020.

The Haslingden 2040 consultation sought views on proposed public realm enhancements, a shop front design scheme, events and training programme for the town centre, and the wider 2040 vision for Haslingden.

This consultation utilised several techniques to increase participation, with particular emphasis on the completion of a survey on proposed plans. During the consultation period the survey had 554 respondents, with 465 fully completed surveys.

The project team actively engaged the public and business community wherever possible to seek views on plans for Haslingden.

In addition, a formal notification of proposals was sent to following statutory consultees for feedback.

- 4.6 The Vision outlines the regeneration aims of the Council in delivering a thriving town centre through sustainable development with business and community investment. Footfall and occupancy rates will be boosted through events and a variety of other offers, which will encourage the town centre to be more a welcoming and vibrant environment that people want to visit and spend their leisure time.

- 4.7 The Masterplan has been shaped by extensive public consultation and input from stakeholders. Consultation showed that there is a clear need to repurpose the offer for both residents and visitors in Haslingden town centre. The key findings from the consultation include:

- 77% respondents live in Haslingden or Helmshore wards;
- When visiting the town centre, respondents usually visit - 55% alone, 22% as a couple, 19% with family;
- 20% visit Haslingden town centre everyday & 37% once a week;
- 43% visit in the morning & the same for the afternoon, whilst only 14% after 6pm;
- 89% think that historic buildings within Haslingden Town Centre require improvements and investment;
- 80% do not think Haslingden is currently an attractive place to visit;
- 77% think Haslingden will become more attractive to visit with the proposed changes;
- 89% would like to see historical architectural features enhanced on buildings to create more traditional and consistent shop fronts within Haslingden Town Centre;
- 93% do not visit Haslingden Market regularly;
- 79% would be more inclined to visit the market more regularly if there were more specialist events or themed markets;
- 77% agree that new public art, updated facilities and signage would improve Haslingden Town Centre;
- 19% suggested a pedestrianised/pedestrian friendly Deardengate/new traffic arrangements as improvements;
- 17% suggested tidying the town centre/introducing more greenery/shop front consistency as improvements;

- 67% agree installing traditional footpath paving, in addition to existing cobbles would complement Haslingden's heritage;
- 84% agree that connecting Haslingden with nature through the development of pocket parks, improved gardens and the installation potted plants in various places would add value to the town;
- 78% agree upgraded pedestrian areas at the Deardengate/Blackburn Road/Manchester Road junction improve accessibility to Haslingden Town Centre;
- 79% would visit the town centre more frequently if regular events and activities were held in the new public spaces;
- 67% would be more likely to visit in the evening (after 6pm) if there was a stronger event, food and drink offer;
- 73% think connecting the community of Haslingden with the town's history & heritage through training opportunities and education would be worthwhile.

4.8 Full Council adopted the Haslingden 2040 Vision and Masterplan on 9th December year?.

Progress summary of approved Big Lamp projects:

4.9.1 Project 1: Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas:

Deliver a programme of third party grants to repair and re-instate historical features focusing on shopfronts, roofs, windows, and masonry works, and including 1 internal re-purposing project. Up to 55 properties (11 high priority, 10 medium and 34 reserve) on Higher Deardengate and Lower Deardengate, Haslingden will be in a better condition as a result.



Phase 1 buildings; 18, 23, 41, 51 and 53 Higher Deardengate.

Progress to date:

- The project team have engaged with a number of buildings owners to date and there are 5 grant applications currently being processed by the project team;
- The grant contract and grant offer letters have been approved and finalised;
- Architect drawing packs have been produced;
- The recommendation to appoint Rosslee Construction was made at the Haslingden Strategic Board meeting on the 26th May and accepted by vote;
- A Scheme of Delegation was submitted to CMT on the 28th June and was approved;
- All of the tender submissions, scoring, recommendations and Scheme of Delegation were sent to the NLHF for approval;
- The NLHF have requested that the reserve properties be included in the tender pricing package – this is underway;
- Work is expected to start on site in Quarter 3;
- Work is well underway to begin the engagement process with the next proposed phase of building owners.

4.9.2 Project 2: Repurposing project (vacant floorspace):

Deliver a repurposing project on one large vacant building within the project boundary and undertake significant restoration works to reduce the amount of vacant floor space within the town centre and create a suitable future use for the building.



5-7 Deardengate.

Progress to date:

The identified building (5-7 Deardengate) is currently undergoing a change of ownership. Positive discussions are taking place with prospective owners. This part of the project is scheduled to take place in Year 3 of the project.

4.9.3 Project 3: Public Realm enhancements:

Deliver public realm improvements along Upper Deardengate in partnership with Lancashire County Council; including creating a pedestrianised area, repairs to the Big Lamp, two green alleyways, soft landscaping and the creation of rain gardens.



CGI views of Higher Deardengate improvements.

Progress to date:

A short public realm feedback form received 80 complete responses upon closure on the 17th March and a presentation was given at the March project board meeting. The feedback highlighted that the plans and proposals met the needs and expectations for Haslingden. The board approved the project team to develop and publish a tender for a contractor to undertake the works. This tender is due to be published imminently with works anticipated to start in late 2022.

4.9.4 Project 4: Community events and training programme:

Hold a series of workshops to promote the conservation of the historic environment, including improving local traditional building maintenance skills. Hold a series of walks, talks, events and re-enactments. As well as researching and sharing the history of the town and its communities. Work with partners, schools, and local community groups to reach new and diverse audiences through the delivery of the project.



The Extraordinary Victorians at St James' Primary & Traditional Skills at Burnley College.

Progress to date:

- June saw the first major engagement activity for the project with a 3-day traditional skills course hosted at Burnley College the course evaluations surveys were hugely complementary and the project will be delivering similar hands on opportunities like this in the future.
- A full day session was delivered by the Extraordinary Victorians at St James' Primary School where children met mill owners, Mr & Mrs Pemberton. Feedback was brilliant and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.
- The team are also promoting a traditional sign writing workshop in August, one for adults and one specifically aimed at teenagers – GCSE/A-Level.
- Plans are also underway for a mini Summer Fayre on the market at the end of August for the Haslingden Business Association and final elements are being confirmed for the interestingly titled '*Haslingdens great fables & something that has occurred and is the case*' walk in September.

4.9.5 Project 5: Community micro grants programme:

Deliver a Community Grant scheme enabling community groups and local businesses to explore their heritage, in accordance with National Lottery Heritage Fund guidance.

Progress to date:

The community micro grants are also being promoted with drop in sessions held in April and May and a press release published in May. To date we have had four diverse enquiries and the team are working closely with the applicants to develop the applications further.

4.9.6 Other approved elements:

- Conserve and enhance the character of the Conservation Area using conservation best practice through proactive management, monitoring and use of statutory enforcement powers.
- Undertake thorough evaluation throughout the project according to National Lottery Heritage Fund guidance.
- High visibility acknowledgement of The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Progress to date:

- The Conservation Area Management Plan has been reviewed and the Designation Review has also been undertaken. This is currently undergoing the statutory processes for them both to be formally accepted.
- This has begun with short films being produced every 6 months, evaluation and feedback forms being completed by attendees at events and training, plus requests for expressions of interest will soon be published to work on the wider project evaluation upon project completion.
- A small logo plaque is being designed with an image of the Big Lamp on and all the required logos, these will be installed to buildings who receive a grant. Carved stones will also be included in the public realm hard landscaping element.

4.9.7 Publicity:

- A household leaflet was produced in early 2022 and publicised and circulated to over 8,000 to re-engage the Haslingden community and gave an over view of the projects year one programme;
- The 2040 website has seen updates, including the news section. The project is also active on social media – Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/haslingden2040vision> & Twitter <https://twitter.com/haslingden2040> and is looking to create an Instagram page too;
- The project regularly publishes press releases on activity being undertaken;
- There are 2x A0 boards detailing the public realm works (one is in situ in an empty retail unit, the other is awaiting final permissions to be attached to the Library);
- Pop up banners and presentation boards are located in various buildings throughout the town centre;
- Banners are being produced and will be attached to building and key sites during the delivery phase of the project;
- Short films are being produced approximately every 6 months – both for publicity and as part of the projects evaluation. The link to the first film is here The link to the film is here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CecY32mLEY4>
- A time lapse photo stand will be installed at the top of Higher Deardengate.

Plea to apply for grants to support local heritage

LOCAL businesses and community groups in Haslingden are being encouraged to contact [Rossendale Council's](#) economic development team to apply for grant funding to help connect people and communities to the town's local heritage.

As part of The National Lottery Heritage Fund and [Rossendale Council's](#) Deardengate Big Lamp project - Shining Light on Haslingden's Her-

itage, micro-grants are being offered from £50 up to £3,000.

The grants are aimed at those who are either located within the Haslingden Conservation Area or deliver their project within the Conservation Area.

To find out more and receive a grant application form, contact Laabiyah Iqbal via email at laabiyahiqbal@rossendalebc.gov.uk.



Training offer to help build up knowledge

THE Haslingden Big Lamp National Lottery Heritage Fund project and [Rossendale Council](#) are offering a free three-day training programme on traditional building skills at Burnley College.

The course, which starts on Wednesday, June 8, is made possible thanks to money raised by lottery players and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The programme will be delivered by Sympathetic Works, a consultancy who provide training in heritage and traditional buildings.

It will provide training on traditional building

skills such as decorative plastering, plus lime pointing and plastering and will allow participants to gain real hands-on practical experience.

David Rothwell, a Haslingden resident, said: "Historic buildings are all around us, especially in Rossendale, and this a great opportunity for attendees to learn more about historic buildings and to appreciate the unique value they add to our townscape."

Anyone interested in the programme should email laabiyahiqbal@rossendalebc.gov.uk or mrh@rags.co.uk rossendalebc.gov.uk for further information.

Press articles from the Lancashire Telegraph and Rossendale Free Press. Display in Library.

4.9.8 Haslingden Business Association:

- After significant publicity, the first Haslingden Business Association was held at the end of May and was attended by 11 businesses and 1 private individual which was a great start.
- Subsequent meetings have been held on the last Tuesday of every month at present, leaflets and posters are hand delivered throughout the town centre. Attendance has been promising to date.
- The project manager for the Big Lamp is currently acting chair but this is to help the HBA gain traction whilst a willing chair, preferably a business owner within the project area, is appointed.

Guest speaker,
Rachel Weinhold,
Chair of Bacup
Business Association,
at the HBA June
meeting.



4.10 Other funding:

The Council is currently refining its proposals to unlock the governments UK Shared Prosperity Funding. Haslingden Market features extensively in the proposals and this will allocate additional funding to work on another element of the 2040 Vision.

4.11 Timescales:

The project is currently working to its agreed programme.

5. RISK:

- Engaging and signing up building owners to the scheme. This can take time and may even take years to develop in some cases – ongoing proactive engagement will continue and as buildings come forward in the project, it should encourage more building owners to engage.
- Building owners may not have the funds to contribute to the scheme or might have a small budget – First Choice Credit Union have been engaged and the project team will ensure as much notice as possible is given to building owners to access their contributions.
- Barrier of engaging with Muslim building owners, gambling is prohibited in Islam and owners may feel uncomfortable with taking part in a scheme funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund – engaging with other similar projects with a similar demographic to Haslingden.

6. FINANCE:

6.1 There are no additional financial implications arising out of this update report.

7. LEGAL:

7.1 There are no legal implications arising out of this update report.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 The Big Lamp project will support the Council's Corporate Plan.

8.2 Extensive consultation has taken place with the Haslingden Strategic Board, and the wider residential and business communities of Haslingden to ensure that the project being delivered has been developed and refined correctly.

8.3 Any equality implications related to the proposed projects will be given consideration in a relevant and proportionate manner.

9. REASON FOR DECISION:

9.1 To update members as to the progress made in relation to this project. The delivery of the Big Lamp project bid will deliver a transformational change to Haslingden town centre and in turn this will support our economic development aspirations.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Haslingden 2040 Vision	https://haslingden2040.co.uk/our-vision/
Full Council approval of Haslingden 2040 Vision & NLHF bid submission	https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1201/council
Full Council approval for Haslingden 2040 consultation	https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1183/council
UK Shared Prosperity info	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus