

To register a question for Public Question Time please email your question to [democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk) before 9am Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

**Meeting of:** The Council

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 6.30pm** or at the conclusion of Question Time and Public Engagement whichever is the later.

**Venue:** Council Chamber, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup. OL13 0BB



**The meeting will also be live streamed at the following link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLsMDOP7AYxik5pNP0gTIA/streams>

**Supported by:** Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422  
Email: [democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk)

ITEM		Lead Member/Contact Officer
<b>A.</b>	<b>BUSINESS MATTERS</b>	
<b>A1.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>A2.</b>	To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2023.	
<b>A3.</b>	<b>Urgent Items of Business</b> To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.	
<b>A4.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> <i>Members are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to seek advice on interest issues if necessary.</i> Members are requested to indicate at this stage, any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Code of Conduct, they must declare the nature of any personal interest and, if the interest is prejudicial, withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the item.	Clare Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer 01706 252438 <a href="mailto:clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk">clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service</b> To receive any communications from the Mayor, the Leader, or the Head of the Paid Service that they may wish to lay before the Council.	The Mayor, Councillor Walmsley, The Leader, Councillor A.Barnes and Rob Huntington, Chief Executive 01706 252447 <a href="mailto:robhuntingdon@rossendalebc.gov.uk">robhuntingdon@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>
<b>C.</b>	<b>ORDINARY BUSINESS</b>	
<b>C1.</b>	<b>Marl Pits Pool Filtration System</b> To consider the Marl Pits Pool Filtration System report	Councillor Oakes/ Clare Law, Head of People and Policy 01706 252457 <a href="mailto:clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk">clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>

The agenda and reports are also available for inspection on the Council's website <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/>. Other formats are available on request. Tel 01706 217777 or contact Rosendale Borough Council, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB

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<b>C2.</b>	<b>Climate Change Strategy Update</b> To consider the Climate Change Strategy Update	Councillor Lythgoe/ Rob Huntington, Chief Executive 01706 252447 <a href="mailto:robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk">robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>
<b>C3.</b>	<b>Haslingden 2040 Update</b> To consider the Haslingden 2040 Update	Councillor A. Barnes/ David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development 01706 252429 <a href="mailto:davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk">davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>
<b>C4.</b>	<b>Repairs to Hareholme Viaduct</b> To consider the Repairs to Hareholme Viaduct report	Councillor Oakes/ Clare Law, Head of People and Policy 01706 252457 <a href="mailto:clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk">clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>
<b>C5.</b>	<b>Insurance Tender</b> To consider the Insurance Tender report	Councillor Oakes/ Karen Spencer, Chief Finance Officer 01706 252465 <a href="mailto:karens pencer@rossendalebc.gov.uk">karens pencer@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>
<b>C6.</b>	<b>Urgent decisions</b> To note any urgent key decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council:  Special Urgency Decision taken 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 regarding the Local Authority Housing Fund grant  <a href="https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/18141/special_urgency_decision_-_local_authority_housing_fund_grant">https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/18141/special_urgency_decision_-_local_authority_housing_fund_grant</a>	Clare Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer. Tel: (01706) 252438 Email: <a href="mailto:clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk">clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>
<b>D.</b>	<b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b>	
<b>D1.</b>	<b>Notice of Motion</b> To consider a notice of motion submitted by Councillors McInnes and MacNae regarding health inequalities.	Councillor McInnes Councillor MacNae
<b>D2.</b>	<b>Notice of Motion</b> To consider a notice of motion submitted by Councillors S.Smith and Rigby regarding remembrance events.	Councillor S.Smith Councillor Rigby



**Rob Huntington**  
Chief Executive

**Date Published:** 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## **COUNCILLOR ANDREW WALMSLEY, MAYOR**

**MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE**

**DATE OF MEETING: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor Councillor Walmsley (in the Chair)  
Councillors Adshead, B. Ashworth, D. Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Cheetham, Driver, Eaton, Foxcroft, Gill, Hughes, Kenyon, Looker, McInnes, McMahon, MacNae, Marriott, Morris, Neal, Oakes, Powell, Rigby, Rooke, M. Smith, S. Smith, Snowden, Thompson and Whitehead.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service  
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer  
Karen Spencer, Chief Finance Officer/ S151 Officer  
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development  
Phil Morton, Public Protection Manager  
Jac Jordan, Communications  
Darren Kershaw, Mayor's Attendant  
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** 1 press  
124 public  
Sam Sandford, Rossendale Leisure Trust

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Coogan, Hodgkiss, Johnson, Norton, Procter and Woods.

### **2. Minutes**

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and Extraordinary Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **3. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

### **4. Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Councillor Scott Smith- was a member of the board of Active Lancashire.
- Councillors Foxcroft and Lythgoe were members of the board of the Rossendale Leisure Trust.

### **5. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service**

There were no communications from the Mayor or Head of Paid Service.

The Leader of the Council informed that Lancashire was moving forward on the Devolution deal, but it was not the deal that the group of authorities had agreed about 12 months ago, which included one vote per authority and included all fifteen authorities. This deal looked to include Lancashire County Council (LCC), Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Councils. The authorities had endeavoured to get across to LCC the desire to remain part of the Lancashire Leaders partnership working group and had asked LCC to find meaningful way

to involve the districts in the deal going forward. The Leader would keep members informed of further developments.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **6. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and Work Programme**

The Council considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022/23 and Work Programme 2023/24.

#### **Resolved:**

That Council approve the Annual Report 2022/23 and Work Programme 2023/24.

#### **Reason for Decision**

To inform of the work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2022/23 and outline of the work to be carried out during 2023/24.

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

### **7. Building Capital Repairs Contract 2023/24**

The Council considered the Building Capital Repairs Contract 2023/24 report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The work would be carried to a proper standard.
- The detail of the works to Whitworth Chapel would be in the tender.

#### **Resolved:**

1. Full Council approves the list of works on the 2023/24 Capital Building Repairs Contract and authorise officers to go out to tender.
2. Full Council delegates the appointment of the contractor to the Head of People and Policy in consultation with the Lead Member.

#### **Reason for Decision**

To approve the level of works and tender process for the 2023/24 contract to maintain council owned assets ensuring that the same do not suffer from deterioration with health and safety implications and increased repair cost when finally addressed.

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

### **8. Food Law Service Plan 2023/24**

The Council considered the Food Law Service Plan 2023/24 report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Complaints had been around the quality of food and not the service.

Thanks was given to staff for all their work throughout the year.

#### **Resolved:**

That the Food Service Plan 2023/2024 is approved.

#### **Reason for Decision**

The Food Law Service Plan 2023/24 will deliver the Council's obligation to comply with the FSA's Food Law Code of Practice.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **9. Housing Strategy**

The Lead Member moved the Housing Strategy with the following amendment to recommendation 1.3 which was seconded by the Leader of the Council:

*To launch the strategy at a planned event in July 2023, which will include a round table event with key partners to begin a discussion on how to take the strategy forwards.*

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Funders were reviewing the terms and conditions on how we can use the Disabled Facilities Grant funding.
- Officers were underway with a policy review.
- The Council was committed to its Armed Forces Covenant.

### **Resolved:**

1. To consider and approve the 2023-2027 Housing Strategy and accompanying Action Plan.
2. To delegate authority to the Head of Housing and Regeneration to develop the following pieces of work identified in the Action Plan:
  - Homelessness and Rough sleeping strategy
  - Housing Need and Demand Survey
  - Overhaul of the Disabled Facilities Grant policy
  - Tenancy Strategy
  - Home improvement agency
  - Establish a Partnership forum
  - Establish delivery plans for Council owned land to bring forward for housing
  - Increase supported accommodation in the Borough
  - External funding business cases
  - Supported accommodation in Rossendale
3. To launch the strategy at a planned event in July 2023, which will include a round table event with key partners to begin a discussion on how to take the strategy forwards.
4. To delegate all future minor amendments to the Head of Housing and Regeneration in conjunction with the Lead Member for Housing.

### **Reason for Decision**

This strategy will deliver 4 years of action to understand the housing sector in Rossendale, creating the evidence to significantly improve and increase our impact on the sector.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **10. Rossendale Works Employability and Skills Project Extension**

The Council considered the Rossendale Works Employability and Skills Project Extension report.

### **Resolved:**

1. To extend the More Positive Together 1.4 Project delivered in Partnership with Active Lancashire until March 2025 funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
2. To deliver a further programme of People and Skills support for Rossendale Works until March 2025 funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
3. To delegate authorisation to the Monitoring Officer on Rossendale Council's behalf, to enter into a Service Level Agreement until March 2025 with Active Lancashire to

deliver our new People and Skills programme relating to the UK Shared Prosperity Funding awarded in December 2022.

4. To establish a “Bridge to Employment” for Employability and Skills at Futures Park, Bacup on a temporary basis while the detail through the Levelling Up Fund is developed.
5. To delegate any minor amendments to the Director of Economic Development alongside the Section 151 Officer and the Lead Member.

### **Reason for Decision**

The principals of this decision align with the Council’s core values and is identified as a key growth theme in the Council’s Economic Development Strategy. This package of support will be an important mechanism to reduce Rossendale’s levels of unemployment, increasing our skills and supporting our local businesses recruitment needs.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **11. Rossendale LUF Regeneration Programme – Outline Execution Plan**

The Council considered the Rossendale LUF Regeneration Programme – Outline Execution Plan.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- This was now a Capital Regeneration Project and the Memorandum of Understanding had been received this week.
- Members would to be informed of progress throughout.
- It would be a catalyst to bring other prominent properties back in to use in the valley.
- The Council was talking to the market traders.
- Time frames would be tight and inflationary cost pressures would also need to be addressed.

### **Resolved:**

1. To note the content of the successful bid for £17.95m from the Government’s Capital Levelling Up Fund, this being:
  - Regeneration of Rawtenstall and Bacup market areas,
  - Improvements to public realm on Union Street, Bacup and from Rawtenstall to the top of Bank Street
  - Establishment of ‘The Bridge’ Skills and Employability Centre
  - Capacity enhancements to Rawtenstall gyratory.
2. To note the contents of the draft Memorandum of Understanding.
3. To delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development and Lead Member for Economic Development the following:
  - The procurement and appointment of all design consultants for the programme. These include architects (including highways), Civil and Structural, Mechanical, Electrical and plumbing together with Quantity Surveying, External Project Management and Clerk of Works.
  - The procurement and appointment of any other consultant required to support the delivery of the programme.
  - To proceed with all planning applications and statutory authorisations required to deliver the project, including authorising the demolition of the former Barclays Bank building on Market St, Bacup
  - To authorise Lancashire County Council to complete concept designs for the gyratory.
  - The procurement for the construction works related to the programme and appoint the contractors accordingly, under the JCT Design and Build.

- The invitation to tender for pre-let arrangements for the new cycle hub and café facility in Bacup
  - To agree a Market Trader transition plan for Bacup and Rawtenstall whilst the works take place.
  - Any application and acceptance for additional external funding to support the objectives of the Capital Levelling Up Fund Programme.
  - Seek and act on opportunities for the “Bridge” Skills and Employability Centre.
4. Delegate Authority to Chief Finance Officer and the Lead Member for Resources to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with LCC for their £1.5m contribution to the Capital Levelling Up Fund Programme.
  5. To Delegate Authority to Cabinet to:
    - Agree any changes to the Programme
    - Establish a Rossendale Regeneration Board of stakeholders to support engagement activity and delivery
    - Approve concept designs for each aspect of the programme.
    - Approve the consultation, engagement and communication plan
    - Agree the Exit Strategy for the Programme.
  6. Delegate Authority to Rossendale Council's Programme Board to:
    - Monitor Spend
    - Oversee Programme Delivery
    - Manage Risks

### **Reason for Decision**

The Delivery of the Capital Levelling Up Fund will support Rossendale to have a Thriving Local Economy and in turn support our Economic Development Aspirations.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **12. Investment at Fairview Recreation Ground**

The Council considered the Investment at Fairview Recreation Ground report.

### **Resolved:**

1. That Council approves the project and consultation exercise with the public for Fairview Recreation Ground.
2. That Council approves the addition to the Capital Programme of the fully funded project in 2023/24.
3. That Council delegates application for and approval of any grant funding necessary to facilitate the development to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Lead Member and s151 Officer.
4. That Council delegates approval of any tender and subsequent award of contract to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Lead Member.

### **Reason for Decision**

The sum paid to the Council is ring-fenced for improvements to the public open space at Fairview Recreation Ground, and must be spent by November 2026. Therefore it is important that the process is started in 2023 in order to deliver the improvements. The consultation with users of the site will guide the Council in how the S106 allocation is spent and whether there is an opportunity for additional funding from external sources.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

### **13. Urgent Decisions**

Council noted the Special Urgency Decision taken 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 relating to the Household Support Fund as detailed on the public notice.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **14. Notice of motion**

Councillor Thompson moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Foxcroft:

*This Council acknowledges the need to raise awareness and increase the understanding of Birth Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder during Birth Trauma Awareness Week from the 16<sup>th</sup> July - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023.*

*This council resolves to take steps to promote education and awareness of Birth Trauma during the Awareness Week across the Borough including the Council's staff network.*

*This Council thanks the Birth Trauma Association and others organising the Awareness Week across the UK and their work supporting families that have experienced trauma.*

An amendment was moved by Councillor McInnes and seconded by Councillor McMahon to add an additional recommendation as follows:

*This Council resolves to write to the Health Secretary to request that further support is made available through the NHS for new mothers who are suffering with Birth Trauma and PTSD.*

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Members were thankful to Councillor Thompson for bringing this to their attention.
- Councillor Thompson was happy for the information to be shared as widely as possible.

Members voted on the amendment becoming the substantive motion, which was carried.

#### **Resolved:**

1. This Council acknowledges the need to raise awareness and increase the understanding of Birth Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder during Birth Trauma Awareness Week from the 16<sup>th</sup> July - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023.
2. This council resolves to take steps to promote education and awareness of Birth Trauma during the Awareness Week across the Borough including the Council's staff network.
3. This Council thanks the Birth Trauma Association and others organising the Awareness Week across the UK and their work supporting families that have experienced trauma.
4. This Council resolves to write to the Health Secretary to request that further support is made available through the NHS for new mothers who are suffering with Birth Trauma and PTSD.

#### **Reason for Decision**

To support the amended motion.

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

Original motion.



**15. Exclusion of Public and Press**

**Resolved:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**16. Rossendale Leisure Trust Review – Implementation/Action Plan**

The Council considered the Rossendale Leisure Trust Review – Implementation/Action Plan.

Discussion took place on the item and clarification was provided where requested.

**Resolved:**

To approve the report recommendations.

**Reason for Decision**

To support the recommendations.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**17. Mid Year Budget Review**

The Council considered the Mid Year Budget Review report.

Discussion took place on the item and clarification was provided where requested.

An amendment was moved and seconded, but was not carried.

**Resolved:**

To approve the report recommendations.

**Reason for Decision**

To support the recommendations.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**(The meeting commenced at 7.58pm and concluded at 9.53pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....

<b>Subject:</b>	Marl Pits Pool Filtration System	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Full Council	<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
<b>Report of:</b>	Facilities Manager	<b>Lead Member:</b>	Resources
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: Yes/No
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: Yes/No
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lee Childs	<b>Telephone:</b>	01706 252527
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:leechilds@rossendalebc.gov.uk">leechilds@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>		

### 1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 Full Council to approve the renewal of a new pool filtration system at Marl Pits Pool and authorise officers to tender the project.
- 1.2 Full Council to delegate the appointment of the contractor to the Head of People and Policy in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The purpose of this tender and subsequent contract is to renew the pool filtration system at Marl Pits Pool to ensure the pool facility can continue operating.
- 2.2 The pool filtration system at Marl Pits Pool consists of two large circular steel tanks approximately 2.5 metres in diameter, 1.8 metres in height which are sited in the lower levels of the plant room. The pool water is continuously piped through the tanks under pressure which passes through sand within the tanks that removes the impurities.
- 2.3 Because the tanks are showing visual signs of detrition Andrew Gaffey Ltd Consulting Engineers for the pool industry were commissioned by Rossendale Leisure Trust to carry out a survey and an ultra – sonic test on the tanks.
- 2.4 When manufactured in 1974 the tank walls would have been 12mm thick and the minimum industry operational standard and to carry out successful repairs is + 6mm. Following the ultra sonic test some areas of the tank walls now as little as 3.5mm thick and already showing signs of detrition with pin hole leaks and rusting.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The two sand filter tanks will be replaced with two new ceramic steel filters. Closure of the pool would not be required when the new tanks are installed as they can be installed one at a time therefore no loss of revenue. The installation will take two weeks.
- 3.2 The new ceramic filters will make substantial savings on energy bills compared to the sand filters providing a realistic payback period and would contribute towards Rossendale Council commitment to net zero carbon by 2030.

3.3 The lower running cost of ceramic filters against the sand filters is because of the modern design, the method of filtering that no longer has to be under pressure to force through the sand filters system and the tanks are therefore smaller using less over all energy.

#### **4. RISK**

4.1 If these tanks are not renewed immediately there is a possibly of the tanks bursting which would immediately mean the closure of the pool for several weeks causing reputational damage to both the Rossendale Leisure Trust , Rossendale Council and the loss of revenue.

#### **5. FINANCE**

5.1 The estimated price for renewing the sand filter tanks with a ceramic steel filters is c£150k, this will be funded from the Carbon Reduction Capital Scheme.

5.2 Compared to a sand filtration system the use of ceramic filters will reduce Rossendale Leisure Trusts annual utility costs by an estimated £22k per annum as broken down below. In addition, installing ceramic filters will reduce CO2 emissions by 15.8 tonnes.

<b>Utility</b>	<b>Annual tonnes CO2 Saving</b>	<b>Approximate Annual Savings</b>	<b>% £ Savings</b>
Electricity	9.1	£12k	58%
Gas	6.7	£ 6k	80%
Water		£ 4k	80%
Total	15.8	£22k	

#### **6. LEGAL**

6.1 The Contract Procedure Rules require Corporate Management Team and Cabinet to approve any contract with an expenditure of over £100k prior to going out to tender. It is however important to tender this contract as soon as possible due to the nature of the works. It is therefore prudent and expedient for the matter to be considered by Full Council.

#### **7. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 No policy or equality implications.

#### **8. REASON FOR DECISION**

8.1 Full Council to approve the works and tender process for the renewal of the pool filters at Marl Pits Pool to avoid pool closure and to benefit from energy saving.

<b>Subject:</b>	Climate Change Strategy Update	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication		
<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2023		
<b>Report of:</b>	Public Protection Manager	<b>Lead Member:</b>	Environment		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Phil Morton	<b>Telephone:</b>	01706 252442		
<b>Email:</b>	philmorton@rossendalebc.gov.uk				

### 1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 That Council note the progress in year three of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Continued development and implementation of carbon reduction measures
- Installation of LED low energy lighting throughout Futures Park
- Completion and adoption of Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- Established successful and innovative partnership with Rossendale Valley Energy
- Completion of Discovery phase of Net Zero Streets project
- Bid to fund Net Zero Streets Alpha phase submitted
- Energy and Carbon audits completed on Rossendale and RLT facilities
- Preparatory work undertaken to support funding bids for On Road Charging Scheme (ORCS) and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)

### 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In September 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency and committee to take action locally through a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

3.2 The strategy and action plan were agreed in July 2020 and work has progressed over the past 3 years to deliver the agreed actions.

### 4. DETAILS

4.1 Years one and two showed considerable progress in setting out the direction of the Council on its journey towards a carbon net zero position by 2030 and produced some notable successes in reducing our carbon footprint. Details of these are contained in the Annual updates for year 1 and 2, copies of which can be found in the background documents.

4.2 The 10-year plan was always designed to be a marathon, not a sprint and year 3 has seen considerable progress in planning and developing measures to future proof Council owned assets, and to ensure that any carbon and energy saving initiatives provide both value for money and measurable and sustainable reductions in our carbon output.

4.3 Progress has also been made in developing policies and projects to ensure that the wider community, businesses and residents contribute to Rossendale's overall carbon reduction efforts.

#### 4.4 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

4.5 The adopted Local Plan committed the Council to prepare a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This provides developers with specific additional guidance on how to address issues relating to climate change in their development proposals, encouraging new buildings that have a lower carbon footprint both in construction and operation. A copy of the SPD can be found in the background documents.

4.6 The production of the SPD was overseen by a Steering Group of members (Cllrs Adshead, Lythgoe and Oakes) and officers from the Economic Development and Communities Directorates. It was formally adopted on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

4.7 The key areas that the SPD focuses on are:

- Reducing the dominance of fossil-fuelled vehicles via encouraging sustainable and more active transport.
- Improving energy efficiency and promoting renewables in the Borough
- Water interventions
- Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

4.8 The SPD was subject to a 6 week consultation period which took place between July and August 2022.

4.9 In total 22 comments were received from a number of stakeholders including statutory consultees, residents and developers.

4.10 These were considered and resulted in some amendments being made prior to adoption of the SPD.

4.11 Key themes raised included,

- concerns over the number, location and efficiency of on-shore wind turbines,
- acknowledgement of the importance of moorlands to provide multi-benefits such as carbon storage, recreational use and visual amenity,
- the ability of well-designed Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to create developments that can adapt well to climate change (e.g. reduce flood risk) and mitigate carbon emissions (e.g. tree planting, green roofs and walls).
- the importance of Active Travel not only to reduce carbon emissions but to enhance health and well-being
- more use to be made of renewable energy and electric vehicle charging points in new housing and by the Council
- concerns were raised regarding requiring a percentage of renewable schemes to be provided on major development sites in terms of viability, and duplication with Building Regulations.

4.12 Rossendale's SPD on Climate Change is one of only a few across the country to address specifically the issue of how development should adapt to and mitigate for climate change in a planning document and is only possible because Rossendale has an up-to-date Local Plan in place.

4.13 The SPD will guide proposals to ensure that future developments take into account and mitigate their impacts on the climate.

#### 4.14 **DECARBONISATION**

4.15 Decarbonisation of the Councils building stock is a long-term project with ever developing technology.

4.16 Work has continued to identify the most appropriate alternative to fossil fuel powered heating systems with consideration given to both ground and air sourced heat pumps, bio mass boilers and infra- red heating systems.

4.17 To support this work, a sub strategy to the main Climate Change Strategy was produced, a copy of which can be found in the background documents.

4.18 This Heat Decarbonisation Strategy is designed to deliver an overview of where the Council is at currently, in terms of heat use across our estates and how this translates into carbon emissions.

4.19 The strategy sets out or organisational boundaries, and thus presents a commitment to decarbonising the heat of these buildings.

4.20 To ensure that these boundaries are defined, and for the purposes of this strategy, it has been necessary to identify which buildings the Council can directly influence. This is referred to as scope 1-3 emissions, scope one being those buildings where we have a direct influence.

4.21 This includes buildings, which although occupied by other parties have their energy bills paid via our financial mechanisms.

4.22 Detailed analysis of each buildings energy usage, both expected and real and the total Co2 emissions over a three year period form the core of the strategy and identify those buildings which are thermally inefficient.

4.23 The basis of this approach, coupled with further analysis of specific buildings will aid the Council in seeking funding through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) in replacing systems at the end of their working life with low carbon heating alternatives.

4.24 Practical measures implemented this year to reduce energy use and our carbon footprint have included fitting LED lights for the whole of Futures Park and the installation of replacement double glazed units and additional insulation at the A,B&D centre in Bacup.

#### 4.25 **NET ZERO TERRACED STREETS AND DECARBONISING ROSSENDALE**

4.26 Working in partnership with Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE) and other partners, Net Zero Terraced Streets is an innovative approach to addressing the complex problem of decarbonising communities which due to the nature of the housing stock, i.e. terraced streets are unsuitable for retro fitting of technology such as Air Sourced Heat Pumps (ASHP's).

4.27 As part of Innovate UK's £60 million Net Zero Living programme, which is helping drive the government's Levelling Up agenda, a successful joint bid between Rossendale Borough Council, Rossendale Valley Energy and the Centre for Energy Equality provided funding to investigate the barriers to achieving Net Zero in communities.

4.28 As a pilot scheme, an area of Bacup was chosen which has homes with mixed tenures, with some homes in a conservation area.

4.29 The project is being delivered in three stages; Discovery, Alpha and Beta.

4.30 The Discovery stage completed in June 2023, provided the initial scoping in overcoming the barriers to Net Zero and a bid to fund the Alpha stage is now progressing.

4.31 The Net Zero approach to an area of terraced streets is considering:

- Low carbon heat:
- Ground source bore holes (150m deep, placed in alley and highways) for clusters of terraced houses,
- Taking the ambient heat (10-15C) and circulating it via brine, through a shared loop network for each cluster of homes.
- Each home will have a small Heat pump within the home, which will upgrade this low temperature heat to useable heat (45C) for the central heating system.
- Radiators would need to be upgraded to larger ones with a larger surface area to enable adequate heat transfer.
- As the heat pumps will be operating on a source temperature of 10-15C, the scheme will offer better efficiencies for householders than ASHPs, which will ensure lower running costs and bills.
- Thermal batteries (Sunamp) will be used for hot water – with the potential flexibility for the local grid.
- The improved efficiencies mean that the pressure on the Electricity Grid at peak tea-time winter months will be less, with less requirements for expensive reinforcements.
- Low carbon transport – EV charging and/ or EV Car clubs
- Shared Solar PV across the Terraced street with shared battery storage and using Allume (sol-share) to ensure maximum generation is consumed across the terraced street.
- Potential for urban battery utilising Local Supply model and peak shaving
- Fabric retrofit – cost to benefit ratio– energy efficiency and flexibility, what pays off?
- Grid Constraints
- Engagement, including how to reach vulnerable households.

4.32 Many communities around the UK, similar to that of Bacup, are in areas of deprivation and risk being locked out of net-zero (NZ) carbon transition. Domestic household gas use emitted 22% of the total CO2 in the Borough in 2022, so this project will be vital to finding a solution that makes sure that no one is left behind.

4.33 Of the 6.9 million terraced homes in the UK, many will not be suitable for ASHPs

4.34 A street by street, planned approach utilising shared heating sources offers economies of scale reducing overall upgrade costs and encouraging neighbourhood uptake of district heating schemes.

4.35 With the dramatic rise in the cost of energy being a significant impact on the cost of living and with domestic heating being responsible for 14% of total CO2 emissions, targeting scalable, investible solutions in areas of need should be a priority to Local Authorities.

4.36 A successful bid for the Alpha stage of the project will take Rossendale one-step further to achieving Net Zero streets.

4.37 A project summary, produced by Rossendale Valley Energy can be found in the background documents.

#### 4.38 CARBON REDUCTION GRANTS.

4.39 The carbon reduction grant programme has continued to provide funding to businesses and community groups to support them in reducing their carbon footprint.

4.40 A total of 11 applications have been successful to date and have provided financial assistance across a number of projects including LED lighting, replacement windows and improved insulation. The carbon reduction grant scheme is now currently under review, in order to focus on more strategic applications or demonstrator projects that have a high impact on carbon reduction.

#### 4.41 CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME OFFICER

4.42 In May 2023, the Climate Change Officer who had been in post since October 2021 moved to a position within Central Government. The post was initially a two year post. The post has now been made permanent and a new officer is due to start in September 2023.

4.43 This officer will provide the specialist knowledge and support to drive forward the existing good work already underway, and lead on our ambitious programme of measures to fulfil our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.

### 5. RISK

5.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

A risk register has been developed for the strategy as part of the Council's programme management process and these risks are monitored regularly. A public commitment has been made by the Council to do what it can locally to tackle climate change. This report limits the risk of not delivering on that commitment by putting the resources in place to ensure delivery. This report identifies ways in which the risk of non-delivery can be mitigated

### 6. FINANCE

6.1 The Climate Change Officer post has now been added to the establishment. The post will be funded from reserves in 2023/24. From 2024/25 onwards the cost of the post will be factored into the MTFS.

6.2 Council approved a £1m capital Carbon Reduction Fund in February 2021, phased over 4 years commencing in 2021/22. To date c£165k of this fund has been spent as set out below:-

	£
RBC Buildings	117,210.23
Business Grants	20,497.25
Community Grants	27,888.33
	<u>165,595.81</u>

### 7. LEGAL

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. Each project will be subject to its own considerations on a case by case basis.

### 8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are currently no additional policy or equalities implications arising from this update report



## 9. REASON FOR DECISION

- 9.1 In 2020, the Council made an ambitious commitment to play its part in reducing carbon emissions. The subsequent 3 years have seen significant progress towards achieving this.
- 9.2 Continued development of the outlined projects will allow us to move forward to ensure we reach our net zero ambitions by 2030

<b>Background Papers</b>	
<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
Annual Report year 1	<a href="#">Agendas, reports and minutes   Rossendale Borough Council</a>
Annual Report year 2	<a href="#">Agendas, reports and minutes   Rossendale Borough Council</a>
Supplementary Planning Document	<a href="#">Climate Change SPD   Rossendale Borough Council</a>
Decarbonisation Strategy	<a href="#">Decarbonisation   Rossendale Borough Council</a>
Net Zero Streets Briefing Document	<a href="#">Decarbonisation   Rossendale Borough Council</a>

<b>Subject:</b>	Haslingden 2040 Update	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication		
<b>Report to:</b>	Full Council	<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2023		
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Housing and Regeneration	<b>Lead Member:</b>	Economic Development		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
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## 1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 To note the progress made to date on the Haslingden 2040 vision.
- 1.2 To delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development, Head of Legal and Lead Member for Economic Development to:
- Accept additional external grant funding to support the Haslingden TH programme supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and enter into any necessary grant agreements.
  - Deliver the Haslingden Market scheme including securing the necessary permissions such as planning permission.
  - Procure a main contractor to deliver Haslingden Market improvements under JCT design and build.
  - To close Haslingden market for a period of 6-8 weeks while improvement works take place.
- 1.3 To delegate authority to the Haslingden 2040 Strategic Board to:
- Approve the development of the plans for Haslingden Market.
  - Execute recommendations in the High St Task force Report.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025.
- 2.2 UKSPF has replaced the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

The main aims of UKSPF are to:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards
- Spread opportunities and improve public services
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging
- Empower local leaders and communities

- 2.3 As UKSPF funding has now been approved, the delivery of the UKSPF Programme is key to meeting those needs, and supports delivery of the Council's priorities. This report is focused on the following Priority – **A Thriving Local Economy**.

- 2.4 £300k of UK Shared Prosperity Funding was awarded to Haslingden Market for capital spend, supported by a further approved capital allocation of £200k by Rossendale Council in December 2022 (<https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1349/council>)
- 2.5 This priority of the corporate plan is also reinforced by the Council's Economic Development Strategy, where the vision by 2033, includes Haslingden becoming known for its unique offers and establishing it as a destination for shoppers and visitors.
- 2.6 Nationally, there has been a shift in town centres and their viability as traditional shopping destinations. The 2017 retail and leisure study for Rossendale identified that Haslingden was benefitting from a number of food and drink focused leisure destinations. However, the businesses referenced in the report have now closed. This has become a trend since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and now the vacancy rate, 22%, is significantly higher than pre-covid levels and significantly higher than the national average of 13.8%.
- 2.7 This decline is a common trend among High Streets and is recognized across the nation. To address this, a High Street Task Force has been set up to redefine High Streets by providing tools, guidance and skills to local communities.
- 2.8 Prior to the pandemic, the town of Haslingden, which is a designated Conservation Area, came together to develop a 2040 Vision and Town Centre Masterplan. Work has been underway to progress the identified actions within the Vision. This includes applying to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver a project work £2.3m in the town centre. This report seeks authorisation to continue to progress some of the actions of the Haslingden 2040 Vision.

### 3. BACKGROUND

#### Haslingden TH Big Lamp Project

- 3.1 The National Lottery Heritage Funded project, the Haslingden TH Big Lamp began delivery in Autumn 2021, with a programme of works to achieve the following outputs:
- To deliver a programme of third party grants to repair and re-instate historical features focusing on shopfronts, roofs, windows, and masonry work to 11 high priority buildings on Upper Deardengate and Lower Deardengate. Haslingden will be in a better condition as a result;
  - The restoration and repurposing of one large vacant building;
  - Significant public realm improvements including rain gardens, sustainable urban drainage, lighting etc;
  - A diverse range of community engagement events and training opportunities each year of the project;
  - Micro grants of up to £3k for community groups to apply for to deliver community projects within the Conservation Area.
- 3.2 The Haslingden 2040 Strategic Board have now approved grants to several buildings on Upper Deardengate. A main contractor has been procured and following the completion of several formalities, works will start on site in Autumn 2023. In-depth development with the repurposing project has also taken place. Alongside this, significant progress has been made in engaging the community, who have attended several events, training and workshop sessions.
- 3.3 In August 2022 an open, OJEU compliant tender exercise was completed to procure a contractor to deliver approved public realm proposals submitted in the stage 2 bid submission. The externally appointed Cost Consultant reviewed and clarified the tenders and the lowest return was still over 50% higher than the budget allocated for this element of the project.

3.4 The Haslingden 2040 Strategic Board evolved the public realm scheme to create public spaces, improve connectivity across Deardengate, introduce traffic calming measures and create a greener environment. After the tender returns, the Board expressed their concern that the Public Realm scheme was not achievable in the budget. Immediate action got underway to consider options.

**The following options were appraised:**

- 1) Further funding from RBC for the gap;
- 2) Source other external funding, including Lancashire County Council;
- 3) Not deliver a public realm scheme;
- 4) Value engineer the scheme to a reduced design;
- 5) Approach NLHF for an uplift.

3.5 Option 1 - Further funding from RBC was discounted due to the immense pressure on Local Authorities to reduce services nationally.

3.6 Option 2 – Source other external funding, this is still an option if an appropriate and suitable funding programme can be identified. It has been discounted at present due to the parameters and potential long timescales.

3.7 Option 3- Not deliver a public realm scheme, the Haslingden Strategic Board felt this would be demoralising and the potential for Haslingden Town Centre would not be realised.

3.8 Option 4 – Value Engineer a scheme.

This option has been developed in detail as follows:

- Each tenderer was approached to put forward an appraisal of how they would recommend meeting the budget – for example removing high cost items or changes to materials - this includes changing the original clay paving for ‘Innish’ concrete paving;
- The cost consultant has rigorously tested these ideas against other market parameters and similar schemes being delivered elsewhere in Rossendale and across the country;
- The design team have met to appraise how they would revise the scheme to meet the budget.

Following a review and a collation of the information, the design team made dramatic revisions to the scheme to meet the existing budget. This has meant:

- The materials are of a much reduced quality, which raised concerns about the Conservation Area;
- The size of the scheme is dramatically reduced;
- Omission of pavement widening;
- Omission of green corridors;
- Omission of carriage relaying;
- Omission of street trees and ornamental shrubs.

This option will be progressed if the final option cannot be achieved.

3.9 Given the journey to date and the overall disappointment expressed by the Haslingden 2040 Strategic Board, the National Lottery Heritage Fund have been approached for the opportunity of a Grant Uplift to deliver its original stage 2 public realm proposals. It is felt that this is essential to help Haslingden:

- Rejuvenate its brand and identity;
- Place residents, shoppers and visitors at the heart of its design and champion accessibility

- Increase connectivity;
- Introduce green corridors;
- Enhance the street scene.

3.10 A formal request is being considered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to cover the funding shortfall. A decision is due in Mid-September. It is important to note that the request also includes the continuation of the project officer, who is currently employed until March 2024, until the end of the Big Lamp Project (August 2026).

3.11 This report requests Director of Economic Development, Head of Legal Services and Lead Member for Economic Development to accept and enter into any further agreements, and accept further external funding, to support the Haslingden TH Project.

3.12 To support the delivery of the Public Realm works a communications plan has been developed and will be delivered prior and alongside the capital works.

### **Haslingden Market Investment UK Shared Prosperity**

3.13 In recent years, the popularity of Haslingden Market has significantly declined. The once successful market had only three permanent traders occupying cabins when the Economic Development Team took over management of the market in July 2022.

3.14 Through the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UK SPF), Haslingden Market was awarded £300,000 of capital funding. Rossendale Borough Council contributed an additional £200,000 of capital funding for Haslingden Market to be regenerated. A Town Centre Regeneration Officer has also been appointed as a result of this funding.

3.15 Consultation began in February 2023 and March 2023 to understand the views of local residents and how they would like to see the market improved.

3.16 Consultation methods included:

- 1) Drop-in sessions at the library
- 2) Online surveys and questionnaires
- 3) Press Releases
- 4) Paper surveys at local businesses and organisations such as VIC, HCL and the Library
- 5) 1-1s with several businesses
- 6) 1-1 discussions with existing and former Market traders and local community groups

3.17 Over 400 people responded to the consultation, which was representative of various minority groups.

3.18 The feedback was clear that the market was currently under-utilised. Comments included, a poor range of existing traders with some selling poor quality items, opening days and times that don't fit around people's work schedules, inconsistent events and a feeling of unsafety around the market due to inadequate lighting and low footfall making it a prime location for anti-social behaviour.

Many of those who responded to the survey did use other nearby markets, with the vast majority of those saying they visit Rawtenstall and Bury Markets.

Popular suggestions for improvement for Haslingden Market included:

- A roof covering over some of the market;
- Ample tables and chairs for outdoor dining under the roof covering;

- Levelling and re-paving of the floor to allow it to be more accessible for those who use a wheelchair, have a pushchair or are unsteady on their feet;
- Removal of the fixed stalls that are down the middle of the market currently;
- A flexible space for pop up stalls, to allow for a small stage for theatre and music performances, and for additional tables and chairs;
- More lighting and colour around the market to make it feel modern, vibrant and safe;
- Suitable toilet facilities for customers;
- More street food venues;
- Better signage and wayfinding between nearby car parks, the market, and the main parade of shops on Deardengate; and
- To see the NLHF Big Lamp Project linking to the market regeneration scheme.

3.19 Traders also requested a functional area to prepare food and a revamp of the common facilities to ultimately attract better quality traders.

3.20 The Economic Development Team visited a number of markets across the North West to see what did and didn't work well at other markets, and gain inspiration for how this could be applied to Haslingden. Beyond the design of the market, careful branding and curation of traders was a common theme amongst other successful markets in the region.

### **Procurement**

3.21 In June 2023, a Placemaking Expert, Wilson Mason LLP was procured to design the changes at Haslingden Market. Placemaking capitalises on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that improve urban vitality and promote people's health, happiness, and well-being.

3.22 Wilson Mason will be working closely with Gosling Consulting who are the independent quantity surveyor and are also acting as external project manager for the scheme.

3.23 A main contractor to deliver the scheme in February 2024 will be procured through a tender award in November 2023. This report requests Delegated Authority to the Lead Member and Director of Economic Development to appoint the contractor.

### **Design**

3.24 The first concept designs that have been created by Wilson Mason encapsulate the key findings from the public consultation that was carried out earlier in the year. Feedback has been taken from officers within Economic Development, members of the Haslingden Strategic Board, the Head of Planning at RBC, and the Lead for Specialist Services at Growth Lancashire (who assess conservation-related planning applications). This feedback has been collated and passed back to Wilson Mason for a second concept design to be developed.

3.25 The revised concept designs are attached at Appendix A. An exercise has taken place to cost the concept designs and these are within the budget allocated. This includes levelling out the market to allow for greater accessibility and a covered area, a functional communal traders area, a railing overhaul to break up the wind, new cabin canopy's and painted designs on the shutters, as well as the demolition of the stalls in the central area, to allow for pop ups and events.

3.26 Delegated Authority is requested to the Haslingden 2040 Strategic Board to develop the concept plans and to the Lead Member for Economic Development and Director of Economic Development to deliver the scheme, securing all of the necessary permissions.

### 3.27 Programme:

The Haslingden Market Improvements will follow this programme:

- RIBA stages 1 and 2 - to be carried out by 15/09/23
- Site surveys – to be carried out by 06/10/23
- Planning submission gateway – 15/09/23 - 11/01/24
- RIBA stages 3 and 4 – 22/09/23 - 23/11/23
- Tender for building contractor – to be issued 23/11/23 with contractor award given on 19/01/24
- Construction – market to temporarily close on 02/02/24, with construction commencing on 05/02/24. Construction period of 10 weeks.
- Market to reopen to the public on 19/04/24.

### High St Taskforce

3.28 In May 2023, Rossendale Council was allocated support from the High Street Taskforce to support our 2040 strategy for Haslingden Town Centre.

3.29 A High St Task Force Expert has completed a site visit, with key stakeholders and Haslingden 2040 Board Members, to diagnose the barriers to the transformation of Haslingden. The themes discussed included:

- 1) Reinventing;
- 2) Rebranding;
- 3) Repositioning;
- 4) Restructuring.

3.30 Following the visit, an Unlocking Your Place Potential report was received. This is attached at Appendix B.

This report puts forward the following opportunities to improve those working in Haslingden:

- 1) Expert Advice Visit – considers place activation, marketing and branding along with vitality and vibrancy
- 2) Place Making Programme- a 3-hour interactive workshop (how vitality and viability can be improved through focussing on one or more of 25 priorities identified in the High Street UK 2020 project) as well as more strategic recommendations (for repositioning, reinventing, rebranding or restructuring).
- 3) The Teenage Market Programme- Work with the Teenage Market via the High Street Task Force to provide a regular opportunity for young people to develop their entrepreneurial skills. These skills could then be developed with the potential for longer term new traders for units in the high street.

3.31 It is requested that authority to the Haslingden 2040 Strategic Board to progress the recommendations of the report.

## 4. RISK

4.1 Both the Haslingden TH Big Lamp Project and the Haslingden Market UK SPF project have their own risk registers, both monitored by the Council's Programme Board and monitored by the relevant steering groups on a monthly basis so that anything emerging can be resolved.

4.2 Not receiving the Grant Uplift Request – this would mean that the project would not successfully meet the approved project outcomes as hoped, and would mean that the Public Realm works are much more diluted. Further grant funding would need to be secured in order to deliver the remainder of the Masterplan.

- 4.3 Not enough contingency in the public realm element of the Big Lamp Project- the designs for the public realm are now at RIBA Stage 4, featuring detailed architectural and engineering specifications which were published in a competitive tendering procedure
- 4.4 Inflation / delays - close collaboration has taken place with bidding contractors to minimise delays and mitigate risks related to inflationary pressures on the Big Lamp project. The works will be set to be delivered in January 2024 which is ahead of the programme submitted in the stage 2 bid which stated a start of June 2024
- 4.5 Changes to construction programme of public realm or issues with the road network causing issues and/or delays to the programme and traffic management requirements - regular meetings with Highways Authority and Transdev to ensure both are kept up to date with progress and changes to the construction programme - also to ensure that they are able to time manage their role in the work.
- 4.6 Timescales not met for delivery of the UKSPF grant for Haslingden Market - consultation, options appraisal and capital delivery by March 2025 – the Economic Development team have an excellent track record of procuring professionals/delivering grant funded projects within tight timescales. The team has been increased with two members of staff - a Business Advisor and Town Centre manager (latter specifically for Haslingden)
- 4.7 Unable to attract tenderers – the tender will be published on the council website, contracts finder and in-tend for 4 weeks. Meetings prior to the tender exercise will take place with several contractors.
- 4.8 Tenders received for the Market works are out of the budget – a value engineering exercise will take place to bring the scheme into budget without detrimentally impacting the outcomes.
- 4.9 Phasing constraints and arrangements with market traders - regular stakeholder meetings and discussions with traders will be held along with regular updates across social media, the Haslingden 2040 website, Haslingden Community Partnership and through press releases.

**5. FINANCE**

- 5.1 If the NLHF uplift application is unsuccessful the project will need to be re-engineered to remain within the current budget.
- 5.2 There are no additional financial implications for the Council if the NLHF uplift application is successful, as there is no additional match funding requirement.
- 5.3 The Council’s contributions to the Haslingden 2040 and the Haslingden Market UKSPF schemes are included within the current Capital Programme.

**6. LEGAL**

- 6.1 The legal implications are on the whole covered within the body of the report. All necessary procurements will be carried out in accordance with the Council’s Constitution and Public Procurement Regulations with all necessary legal agreements being completed as necessary.
- 6.2 Further reports to members will be presented as necessary where delegations are not already in place either via this report or the Council’s Constitution.

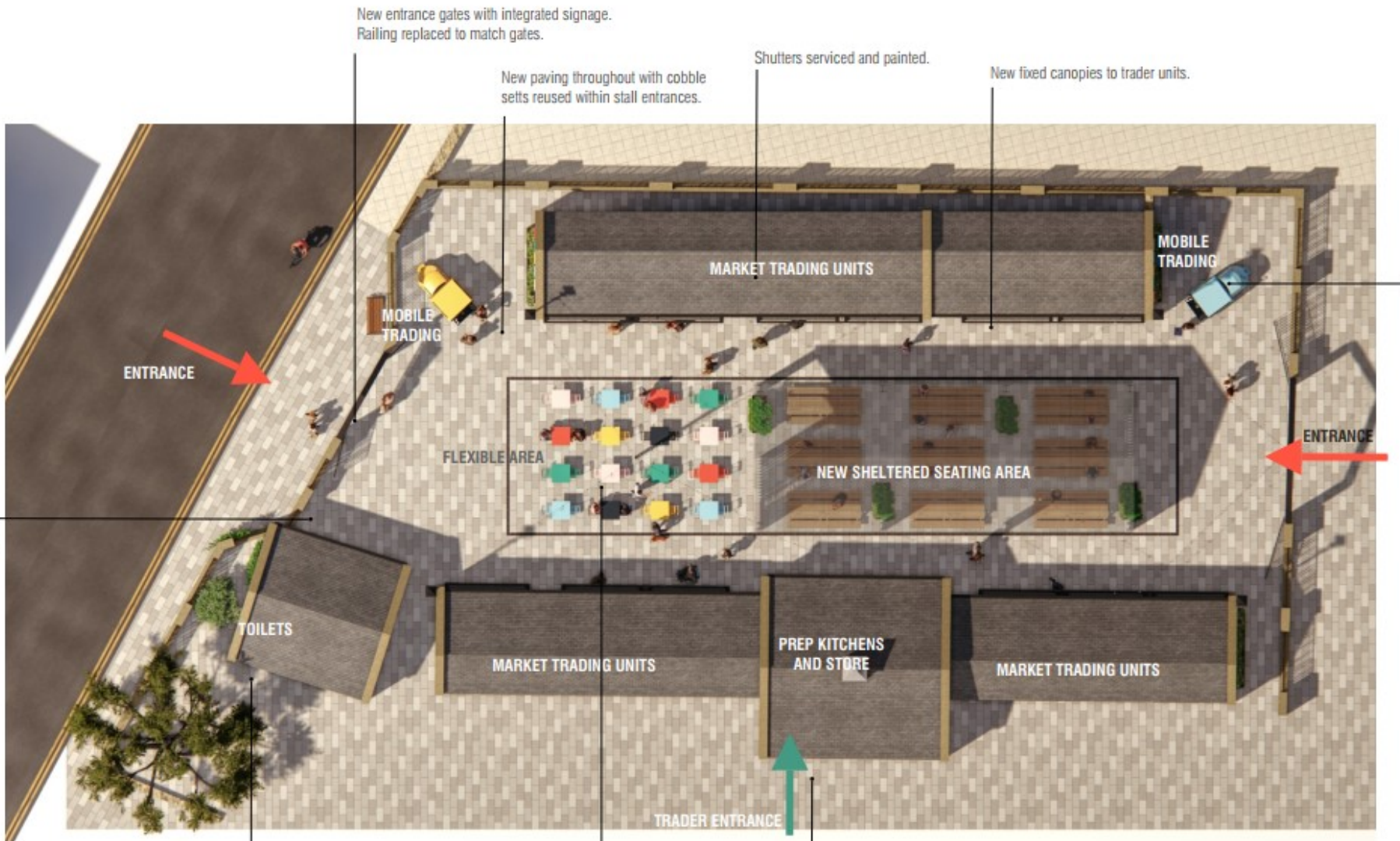


**7. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Any policy implications are included within the body of the report. There are no equality implications.

**8. REASON FOR DECISION**

8.1 Approving the recommendations of this report will contribute to Haslingden becoming a thriving and functional town centre, supporting the local economy and the Haslingden 2040 aspirations.



New entrance gates with integrated signage.  
Railing replaced to match gates.

New paving throughout with cobble sets reused within stall entrances.

Shutters serviced and painted.

New fixed canopies to trader units.

ENTRANCE

MOBILE TRADING

MARKET TRADING UNITS

MOBILE TRADING

Mobile 'tuktuk' tea /coffee or bar.

ENTRANCE

FLEXIBLE AREA

NEW SHELTERED SEATING AREA

Entrance to the toilets modified so that they are accessed from within the market.

TOILETS

MARKET TRADING UNITS

PREP KITCHENS AND STORE

MARKET TRADING UNITS

TRADER ENTRANCE

Refurbished toilets, to include new sanitaryware, deep clean and decoration.

Refurbished trader area to provide 2no. Prep kitchens and a store room which could be used for fridges or to store tables and chairs. A new entrance from the rear is to be provided.

Flexible area with power which can accommodate further seating, trading or events.









# Unlocking Your Place Potential – Report and Feedback



Haslingden

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# About the visit and this report

The High Streets Task Force visited Haslingden on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to undertake an *Unlocking Your Place Potential* diagnostic visit. Emma James was the High Streets Task Force Expert undertaking the visit.

The attendees representing Haslingden can be found in Appendix 1.

**The purpose of the visit was to diagnose the main barrier to your transformation.** In other words, what problem, if not resolved now, will make it difficult for the town to change. To do this the Expert wanted to understand more about the challenges facing the town, your plans for transformation, meet key stakeholders, ask questions and tour the town.

**As a result of the diagnostic process, the Expert has identified a need for improving the offer and animating the town in the short and medium term as the main barrier to transformation in Haslingden.**

The rest of this report identifies the strengths of the town, the main barrier to transformation the Expert found, as well as clear recommendations the Local Authority and partners can action now to accelerate the transformation process. The report ends with a list of High Streets Task Force Products that the Expert has prescribed.

On behalf of the High Streets Task Force, may I take this opportunity to thank attendees who gave up their time to attend the meeting, and who contributed to a frank and positive discussion. Thank you to Megan Eastwood for organising the session and those that led, and contributed to, an informative and well-planned town tour.

From reading the feedback from the visit, and this report, I can see you have a lot going for you in Haslingden – and many strengths both in the town and in your people. The High Streets Task Force is here to help you build on those strengths, and I hope you find it useful.



Matt Colledge

High Streets Task Force Project Director

## Haslingden – Strengths

- ✓ Industrial heritage
- ✓ Proximity to countryside, and to commuters to Preston and Manchester
- ✓ Strong community
- ✓ Evidence of community engagement in developing 2040 vision
- ✓ Strong vision for its future
- ✓ Excellent educational provision
- ✓ Town Centre Manager appointed
- ✓ Some stand out independent businesses
- ✓ Market which is already seeing positive change ahead of longer terms plans
- ✓ Close to attractions including Halo, Helmshore textile Museum and the Grane reservoir

Haslingden is an attractive Northern town, with remarkable heritage and countryside right on its doorstep. The town centre is compact but retains the original streetscape with architectural assets remaining from the industrial heyday of the town, assuring a charm and personality for the visitor. Much work has been put into developing a vision for 2040 with consultation and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, and a successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support some of the works to progress this vision. The strategy for reaching the vision is detailed and based on evidence, a clear understanding of challenges faced, and progress is now being made on the strategy.

In summary, the town has many strengths and although it is facing challenges, these strengths put the town at a significant advantage in relation to other similar towns of its size in the region.

# 4Rs Framework and our method

The aim of the Unlocking Your Place Potential workshop is for our High Streets Task Force Experts to identify the key barrier(s) to the improvement of your high street and recommend an appropriate strategic response. To enable our experts to do this in an evidence-based way, the High Streets Task Force uses the '4Rs Framework'.

Research has identified 237 factors that impact on the success of the high street. However, it is too overwhelming to think of all these at once, so we have developed the '4 Rs' framework to provide some structure to the incredibly complex practice of place transformation. Without a framework, it is easy to be drawn into so much detail that you cannot see the big picture.

When you simplify the process of renewal, the reasons why so many regeneration plans do not result in the changes people expect fall into 4 categories:

- The problems facing the centre were not accurately identified.
- The plans were good but not enough changed.
- The place changed but people's perceptions didn't.
- There were fundamental issues with governance or the spatial layout of the place.

We looked at these problems and identified 4 strategies to address them, *repositioning*, *reinventing*, *rebranding*, and *restructuring*. So, the framework distinguishes between the processes of analysis and decision making (repositioning), effecting change (reinventing), communication (rebranding) and governance/spatial planning (restructuring). More detail on each of the '4R's' is set out below.



Figure 1: 4Rs Framework

# Applying the 4Rs to Haslingden

Although the town and its people have many strengths, we did identify a number of weaknesses. We have grouped these using the 4Rs framework – see below.

<p><b>Repositioning</b></p> <p>Need to stop positioning as secondary to neighbouring towns. Need to meet needs of local catchment, and to build commercial confidence in the town. Need to give clarity who town is for.</p>	<p><b>Reinventing</b></p> <p>Need quick wins to show that action is underway. Need to add animation now to build on market progress. Need to increase offer to meet needs of wider demographic to drive footfall and loyalty.</p>
<p><b>Rebranding</b></p> <p>Need to communicate progress more effectively, and encourage stakeholders to amplify messages. Focus on living up to tag line with comms to support.</p>	<p><b>Restructuring</b></p> <p>Need to build local resource such as new business group, and placemaking action group to get stakeholders working together on the ‘now ‘with support from town centre regeneration officer.</p>

Figure 2: Applying the 4Rs Framework to Haslingden

We used all the information we had to identify which of the descriptions above fitted the evidence we had collected. We collected this evidence from looking at your strategic documents, the Unlocking Your Place Potential visit, including our meeting, discussions, exercises and the in-person town tour. We also included the information we found out about Haslingden from our desk research.

We then grouped each piece of evidence under the 4R headings of Repositioning, Reinventing, Rebranding, and Restructuring. You can see our working on the Fishbone Sheet included in this report.

By classifying every clue, we could see how these are grouped and where Haslingden is facing major barriers. This then allows us to recommend suitable strategies to overcome these (see Figure 2). These strategies are *ways of working*, rather than ‘magic bullets’ relating to any particular intervention in your town. As mentioned at the start of the Unlocking Your Place Potential visit, you are the experts in Haslingden.

You can see the major barriers to your transformation in the next section.

# Fishbone Analysis

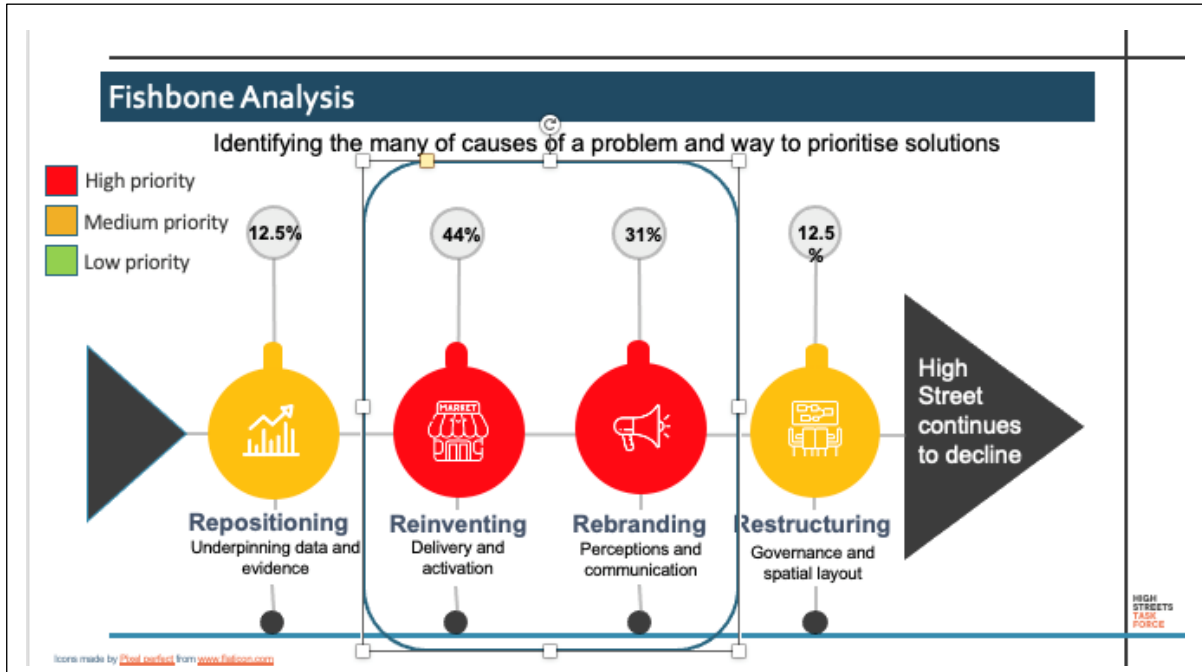


Figure 3: Fishbone analysis

# Diagnosis of main barrier to transformation

**As a result of the diagnostic process, the Experts have identified Reinvention as the main barrier to transformation in Haslingden.**

Haslingden has a strong 2040 Vision towards which progress is being made, but in the meantime more traction is needed, with the support of local stakeholders, to raise the aspirations of local people, and get them more involved in the transformation of the town.

Through the workshop as a group, we identified some clear barriers to the success of the town centre that would sit under the Reinventing banner including:

- The need for an improved town centre offer for local people, in particular young people
- The need for a stronger night-time economy
- The need to create reasons to visit throughout the year
- The need for Haslingden to start to shine in the local area, to hold its own next to neighbouring towns who are arguably further ahead in their regeneration plans.

Great progress is being made with the market offer, both now and for its future, representing an opportunity to build additional activity around this to attract different demographics, and to draw footfall at different times of day.

Whilst larger plans are already afoot through the 2040 Vision and Heritage Lottery Funded plans, much of these plans will take time to deliver. Therefore, an additional focus on how some of the town centre can be repurposed to provide a more attractive offer in the short term will help improve footfall and dwell time. This could include short term activations in the form of pop-up leisure and dining options, or trialling informal co-working spaces or leisure opportunities. With a Town Centre Regeneration Officer in post already, there is great scope to develop ideas and action with local businesses.

Such animation should be co-created with local people to ensure it meets their needs, but also encourages their support in delivering the agreed activities. It should also clearly link to the 2040 Vision.

It was very clear from our meeting that there is a huge amount of enthusiasm and support for the town from the council, community, and businesses. Establishing an additional forum of Stakeholders to activate the town, and communicate its benefits, such as a Placemaking Action Group would be beneficial in increasing capacity to support the work of the Council and the 2040 Strategic Board.

# Recommendations

To improve the offer and animation in the town centre we are recommending a strategy of *Reinvention* to refresh your approach to place leadership. We understand it is not always easy to change cultures, structures, and behaviours to work in a more collaborative way, so we are giving you five recommendations that if you adopt, will lead to some quick improvements.

1. Share the final version of this report with everyone that attended the Unlocking Your Place Potential meeting.
2. Identify empty premises and spaces which could be quickly adapted for temporary use, focusing on the offer for young people and those not currently using the town centre. Consider how these spaces might be used in cost effective and innovative ways that meet local needs, as well as those of the property owners. This activity would be best supported with a grants programme to encourage people to come together to deliver ideas that are generated. Some ideas for consideration are:
  - a. Empty shop units as meanwhile spaces for makers and artists
    1. If units are vacant but the landlord is paying rates there are options for charitable organisations such as East Street Arts based in Leeds to lease spaces taking on the rates liability from the landlord (but not paying rent) and then offering affordable spaces to local artists and creatives.
  - b. Create a pop-up park in the wasteland between Deardengate and Bell Street.

On the town tour we looked at this space and discussed the possibility of the owners allowing it to be used. Could you consider getting support to clear it and create a pop-up park/:

    1. Adding some much-needed green space into the town centre.
    2. Sourcing outdoor ping pong tables from Sport England/ Table Tennis National Governing body as free activity for young people.
    3. Creating some temporary seating and an opportunity for pop up food trucks to operate at weekends to provide an F&B option for visitors to the town while there are limited alternative café options.
    4. Consider using a working group of local stakeholders, including young people, to work up ideas for how the space could best be used.

3. Developing the market offer to include wider demographic and build the evening economy

a. Teenage Market

Work with the Teenage Market via the High Street Task Force to provide a regular opportunity for young people to develop their entrepreneurial skills. These skills could then be developed with the potential for longer term new traders for units in the high street.

b. Night markets

Visit successful night-time market and food offers including Stockport Foodie Friday, Levenshulme Night Market or The Night Market UK events and look at how could develop in Haslingden market and the surrounding streets to extend into the wider town centre. There is also an opportunity to consider other specialist markets – Oldham previously ran a successful monthly Indian Market with a great range of food and produce stalls.

4. Developing an event and animation programme

Curating and promoting a programme of activity across the year, not only drives footfall but also provides a regular stream of positive communications to put out in the town. These don't need to be large scale expensive events, but more collaborative activity that helps tell your story, encourages people to visit, and improves the aesthetics of the town. Working with your town centre This could include:

Winter window displays to tell the story of the town – community groups, businesses and artists are all given empty window spaces to create displays that are lit up at night that tell story of the town's history. The trail is then promoted across social media and beyond to encourage people to follow the trail and explore the town.

Flower Festival – taking inspiration from Manchester BID, create an annual flower festival where businesses and residents are encouraged to either dress their exteriors florally, or create a floral installation. The event looks fantastic, engages a range of businesses, and creates Instagrammable moments that also then promote the town.



A couple of additional recommendations which sit outside of the Reinvention strategy:

5. Communications

The work your Town Centre Regeneration Officer is doing in engaging with stakeholders is really positive, but there are still more people to reach, in particular groups of hard-to-reach residents. Working with stakeholders to find additional ways to communicate with local people about positive progress being made is key. Sometimes a voice/channel that is not Council-led can be more effective. There is already strong progress being made against the 2040 Vision, and communicating more effectively to people locally is key. Our desk research unveiled such a small percentage of the great things happening in your town. A focus on communicating on progress and opportunities with both local people and further afield is needed. Where are the touch points that people find information about the town, how can you use those touchpoints to communicate more? Can relationships with your local paper be improved? social media channels harnessed in different ways? Or can local people work as ambassadors to amplify your messages to different audiences?

6. Building capacity

The Placemaking workshop from the HSTF would be a great way to kick off this area of work in helping a group of stakeholders come together to generate their own ideas, and think about how they could take them forward, perhaps by establishing their own placemaking action group.

7. Engaging Young People

We talked on the Town Tour and in the workshop about some ongoing issues with ASB with young people, and the lack of things for young people to do in the town. Setting up a Young Persons Task Force in partnership with local schools could start to help to address this by giving young people a voice and an opportunity to actively contribute to what is happening in the town now. The groups could be approached to get involved in the Teenage Market, to plan an event for young people in the town, and to shape plans for pop up spaces.

We hope these recommendations are useful. As we explained in the Unlocking Your Place Potential visit, you are the experts in Haslingden not us. Nevertheless, we have experience of working with many towns around the country that face similar challenges – so when we undertake a diagnostic visit, we are well trained in looking for strengths and weaknesses in the town's offer, as well as the structures and processes that manage and change the town.

# High Streets Task Force Product Prescription

Based on our recommendations, we would like to offer you the following products. This has been decided after considering your key barriers to transformation and what we have concluded as the best way to help you achieve your transformation goals.

## High Streets Task Force Products Prescribed:

Product prescribed	Rationale
<b>Expert support</b>	<p>I am recommending Expert Support for Haslingden to assist in working with local stakeholders to develop an events and animation programme that can start now. The expert will have the following specialisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place activation (events, festivals, arts and culture, markets, pop-ups)</li> <li>• Identifying local priorities for improving vitality and viability</li> <li>• Place marketing and branding</li> </ul> <p>Further detail regarding this support can be found in the attached product summary/guidance documentation.</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	<p>I have recommended that prior to the above Expert support Haslingden would benefit from a Place Making Programme workshop. The above Expert visit will be an opportunity to further discuss this product with you, to ensure that it is something that you will benefit from. If during the Expert visit, the need for the workshop is agreed, arrangements will begin to put this in place, and further guidance supplied.</p>
<b>Teenage Market</b>	<p>Having identified a lack of opportunities for young people, alongside the need to improve skills of local people, and given the existing market structure already in situ, a Teenage Market would be a strong way to tackle these issues.</p>
<b>Online learning/resources</b>	<p>Online learning – Improving High Street Vitality and Viability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To assist in developing immediate plan of small changes</li> </ul> <p>Online learning – Reinventing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To assist in developing Reinvention Strategy</li> </ul>

	<p>Online learning - Rebranding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To assist with communications planning and re-building civic pride</li></ul> <p>Specialist webinars – Understanding Place Sentiment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To understand progress in what people are thinking about the town</li></ul>
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**Next steps:**

Please liaise with your Operations contact to make arrangements for the delivery of the next stage of your support. The Operations team are available to assist with any queries relating to the delivery of the above support, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if any aspect is unclear.

More information about all of these products can be found on the HSTF website [here](#).

## Appendix 1 – List of town attendees

Full Name	Job Title	Organisation Name
Eleanor Wood	Architect	Wilson Mason LLP
Kathy Fishwick	Chair	Rosendale Civic Trust
Adrian Lythgoe	Chair of Haslingden Strategic Board	Rosendale Borough Council
Dave Rothwell	Strategic Board member	Resident
Selene Bridge	Shop Owner	Unscripted
Rob Huntington	Chief Exec	Rosendale Borough Council
Dawn Lawler	Town Centre Regen Officer	Rosendale Borough Council
Jan Nangale	Chair	Haslingden and Helmshore Civic Pride
Maria Shellard	Haslingden Library Officer	Haslingden Library
Hina Qureshi	Member	CHAI Rosendale
Laabiyah Iqbal	Haslingden Project Officer	Rosendale Borough Council
Mhorag Saxen	Regeneration Project Lead	Rosendale Borough Council
Dan Gosling	Quantity Surveyor	Gosling Consultancy

Luke Parker	Student	Gosling Consultancy
Leah Armitage	Economic Development	Rosendale Borough Council
Megan Eastwood	Head of Housing and Regeneration	Rosendale Borough Council

<b>Subject:</b>	Hareholme Viaduct	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Full Council	<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
<b>Report of:</b>	Facilities Manager	<b>Lead Member:</b>	Resources
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: Yes/No
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: Yes/No
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lee Childs	<b>Telephone:</b>	01706 252527
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:leechilds@rossendalebc.gov.uk">leechilds@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>		

**1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 1.1 Full Council to approve the improvement works to Hareholme Viaduct.
- 1.2 Full Council approve the appointment of Lee Ashworth Excavations, the lowest bidder, to carry out the tendered works.
- 1.3 Full Council to approve the addition of a further £300k budget to the existing capital scheme to be funded by borrowing or capital receipts.

**2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The purpose of this contract is to carry out repair works to Hareholme Viaduct in order to keep the structure in a safe, serviceable condition.
- 2.2 Hareholme Viaduct is a nine arch masonry Victorian bridge spanning the River Irwell valley which originally carried the railway line running from Rawtenstall to Bacup. It is sited to the rear of the ex-electricity generation station now Lydall off Highfield Road / Bacup Road Hareholme.
- 2.3 The railway line was decommissioned in the early 1960s which then became the liability of the local authority along with its other associated assets including bridges and tunnels. The old railway line now forms part of the Rossendale cycle way which runs along the Hareholme viaduct between Stacksteads and Rawtenstall. The cycle way is also used as a bridleway and by walkers.
- 2.4 The centre of the 6 north facing arches and pillars are now significantly damaged with the masonry bulging and spalling causing the masonry to fall away from the structure. There are also some signs of damage on the other 3 arches. This has been caused over the decades because of water penetration from the pathway above and vegetation growth.
- 2.5 Following advice from Lancashire County Council Bridge Engineers, as a precaution the north side of the viaduct cycle way is fenced off only allowing access along the south side of the viaduct.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A civil engineering scheme has been designed by structural engineer M. Pooler Associates and was included in the tender.

3.2 The works tendered and required to be carried out -:

- Removal of trees and the installation of a temporary road for site access.
- North side of the viaduct to have full access scaffold with river crash deck.
- Removal of vegetation from the viaduct.
- Installation of galvanised steel bars and pattresses running through the width of the viaduct pulling the spalled and bulging pillars together.
- Repair the masonry using shotcrete spray cement method to match existing masonry.
- Install new surface and drainage to the carriage way to ensure water does not further penetrate the structure.

3.3 When tendered, the contract was advertised on the Contracts Finder portal and the Rossendale Council website. The tender was split 80% price and 20% quality with 5 % each for health and safety, references, social values and time scales

3.4 The Council received three tender submissions which were scored and evaluated. Details of the evaluation can be found at Appendix 1 (confidential). All tenderers scored a full 20% on the quality and tender prices were found to be correct.

3.5 Lee Ashworth Excavations has been scored as the lowest bidder at £400,330.25 and it is therefore proposed to award the contract to them.

3.6 It is anticipated that the works will take 12 weeks to complete and liquidated damages will be applied in the event of default.

#### **4. RISK**

4.1 If these works are not carried out on Hareholme Viaduct there will be further deterioration and potential collapse of the structure with a health and safety risk to the public and a subsequent possible closure of the structure.

#### **5. FINANCE**

5.1 A budget of £100k was approved for the Hareholme Viaduct remedial works scheme in the 2022/23 Capital Programme however at the time the full extent of the works was not realised with significant additional works required including site clearance, temporary access road, major scaffolding system required, install drainage and resurface to the carriage way.

5.2 Further inflationary pressures have also increased the contract sum due to increases in materials, labour and fuel costs.

5.3 It is necessary to add a further £300k to the capital scheme in order to progress the works.

5.4 The assumed life of the asset after carrying out the repairs is deemed to be 40 years, after factoring in the cost of borrowing and the minimum revenue provision (MRP) this will add an extra cost of c£24k per annum to the revenue budget. Giving a total extra cost of £626k. However officers will give consideration as to the optimum funding arrangements, which may

include: use of capital receipts, internal borrowing and any other requirements for PWLB borrowing.

## 6. LEGAL

- 6.1 The Contract Procedure Rules require Corporate Management Team and Cabinet to approve any contract with an expenditure of over £100k prior to going out to tender.
- 6.2 It was officers' reasonable belief that the contract price would be under this limit but as outlined in the body of the report, the full extent of the works necessary, along with inflationary pressures, has resulted in this tender coming in over the threshold for approval and budget provided. The tender exercise has been completed in line with the Contract Procedure Rules and is capable of being awarded to the proposed contractor.
- 6.3 It is important to approve this contract as soon as possible due to the nature of the works. It is therefore prudent and expedient for the matter to be considered by Full Council instead of Cabinet.
- 6.4 Full Council is therefore requested to consider the matter and authorise officers to proceed if they are minded to accept the position.

## 7. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 No HR implication.

## 8. REASON FOR DECISION

- 8.1 Full Council to approve the works, the budget and award the contract to the lowest bidder Lee Ashworth Excavations to ensure the future safe use of the viaduct.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Appendix 1	Futures Park (Confidential – Not for Publication)



<b>Subject:</b>	Insurance Contract	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication		
<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2023		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Finance Officer	<b>Lead Member:</b>	Resources		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Special Urgency</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	Yes/No	Attached:	Yes/No	
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	Yes/No	Attached:	Yes/No	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Karen Spencer	<b>Telephone:</b>	01706 252409		
<b>Email:</b>	kareenspencer@rossendalebc.gov.uk				

### 1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 The tender of the Council's insurance arrangements with support from the Council's insurance brokers, Aon PLC, in order to have the new insurance policies in place from 1st April 2024.
- 1.2 Full Council delegates the appointment of the insurance provider(s) to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Council's current insurance contracts expire 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- The Council must now tender for new insurance contracts commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council's insurance policies were extended for a final two years in April 2022, under the Governments Covid procurement policy note. That was the final extension permitted and a full re-tender process must now take place to ensure the Council has insurance provision in place from April 2024.
- 3.2 The public sector insurance market is limited and a highly specialist area. The majority of insurers will only deal with local authorities via an insurance broker intermediary. As such, the Council's insurance broker, Aon, will manage the tender process with support from the Chief Finance Officer. The tender exercise will be carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- 3.3 As part of the exercise a review of the Council's insurance programme will be undertaken and relevant alternatives considered to establish the most appropriate programme for the Council. This will include reviewing components such as the extent of cover, level of deductibles (policy excess), indemnity limits and length of contract.
- 3.4 The contracts will be divided into individual lots. This approach is intended to encourage greater competition and allow specialist insurers to submit bids for specific lots.
- 3.5 Currently Zurich Municipal provide the majority of the Councils insurance cover, with AXA providing Fine Art cover, Chubb providing Personal Accident cover and AON Underwriting Managers providing Terrorism cover underwritten by Lloyds Syndicate. All will be eligible to submit a tender for the new policies.

#### 4. DETAILS

- 4.1 With the support of AON the Council will use the YPO Framework - Insurance Placement Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). This is a compliant framework, as exposed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU 2019/S 106-259145).
- 4.2 The insurance tender will be tendered in the following lots in order to seek best value for money:-

Lot Number	Lot Title	Description
1	Property Services	Material Damage Contract Works Business Interruption Money "All Risks" Theft
2	Casualty Insurance Services	Employer's Liability Public / Products Liability Officials Indemnity Land Charges Libel and Slander Professional Negligence Public Health Act
3	Pecuniary Insurance Services	Fidelity Guarantee
4	Computer Insurance Services	Computers
5	Engineering Services	Engineering Inspection and Insurance
6	Motor Insurance Services	Vehicle Fleet
7	Personal Accident	Personal Accident
8	Terrorism	Terrorism
9	Fine Art*	Fine Art and Civic Regalia

\*The Fine Art Policy will be tendered separately not through the framework.

- 4.3 Aon will undertake a comprehensive evaluation of tender submissions on behalf of the Council and make recommendations. Tender submissions will be assessed on both quality and price.
- 4.4 The policy renewals for 2023/24 amounted to £434k, using this figure as a guide, for a five plus two-year agreement it is estimated the insurance contract will have a total cost of c£3m.
- 4.5 The tender process will begin September 2023 with key milestones being:-

Tender Pack completed and issued/uploaded onto portal	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
Closing date for questions from tenderers	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
Closing date for return of tender submissions	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Insurance cover to be placed by	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024

#### 5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The Council must ensure that, having made an appropriate assessment of risk, adequate provision is in place for identifiable and insurable risks.

## **6. FINANCE**

- 6.1 There are a range of factors that will influence the financial outcome of this tender exercise. These include the Council's claims experience, the current market conditions and any changes to the structure of the Council's insurance programme.
- 6.2 Competition in the public sector insurance market is restricted to a small number of insurers and the Council's insurance broker has advised that the insurance market is presently challenging with some areas of risk seeing significant rate increases.
- 6.3 It should be noted that the standard rate of Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) is presently 12%. IPT will apply to the insurance policies purchased as part of this tender process. Unlike VAT, the Council is unable to recover any IPT paid.
- 6.4 The Council's MTFS includes sufficient budget to cover the current cost of insurances, any increased cost arising from the tender process will need to be factored into February 2024 MTFS.

## **7. LEGAL**

The tender procedure and process has been identified within the body of the report. There are no further legal implications arising from this report.

## **8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

No policy or equality implications.

## **9. REASON FOR DECISION**

The Council's existing insurance contract ends in March 2024. The Council must ensure it has an insurance provider in place from April 2024.

No background papers

## SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Leader of Council:

Name: Councillor Alyson Barnes  
Date agreed: 31/07/2023

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny:

Name: Councillor Samara Barnes  
Date agreed: 31/07/2023

Decision Taker:

Head of Housing and Regeneration

Details of Decision and Reasoning:

Decision to:

- Accept the £429k Local Authority Housing Fund grant
- Approve the addition of a new £429k capital scheme to the capital programme, fully funded by the above grant.

The decision request falls outside of the forward plan timescales and there is not a Cabinet meeting within the required timescale to approve the decision.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, Rosendale Borough Council was advised that it could be allocated £429k from the Local Authority Housing Fund round 2 subject to completing an expression of interest.

The Expression of Interest was submitted and confirmation of the funding was provided on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The forward plan was published on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June for July Cabinet, and therefore the date for publication was missed.

This funding is capital funding announced by the government to support the Afghan cohort.

We now require an urgent decision to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding by the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2023.

This is not a legally binding document but sets out the understanding of the grant.

In summary, the funding aims are:

1. Provide sustainable homes for those on Afghan resettlement schemes
2. Provide better temporary accommodation to those owed a relief duty
3. Reduce temporary accommodation costs
4. Reduce impact on the social housing waiting list

The funding is to be spent by March 2024.

Rossendale Council's funding must support:

1. 4 x properties to meet the Afghan resettlement scheme criteria.
2. 1 x property for Temporary Accommodation for families

It is likely the £429k needs to be further supported by other match funding to bring forward the 5 properties and there are some ways to do this, such as through section 106 purchases and expanding the pipeline for social housing providers.

A clear plan of how this money will be spent and the objectives of the fund will be presented to Full Council in November 2023.

Decision to be taken by:

Megan Eastwood Head of Housing and Regeneration

Documents to be considered by the decision taker:

[Local Authority Housing Fund: Round 2 prospectus and guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Memorandum of understanding

Implications:

Legal - In order to meet the deadlines for receipt of the funding it is imperative that the MOU be signed prior to the next meeting of Cabinet or Council.

HR - Delivery of this MOU will be supported by the Property Services Team.

Finance - Entering the MOU will provide the Council with an initial payment of £129k in August 2023 and a further payment of £300k upon demonstration that 60% of the initial payment has been committed (Dec 2023).

Status:

Open – for publication

Date:

1<sup>st</sup> August 2023

## NOTES

**A Key Decision is defined as one that either:**

- a) is, in value worth more than £100,000, or
- b) has a **significant impact** because (for example) it either:
  - (i) affects individuals or organisations outside the Borough; or
  - (ii) will have a long term (more than 5 years) or permanent effect on the council or the borough.

1. Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A.
2. Implications – List any financial staffing and legal implications and remember to consult with legal, human resources and finance. Also consider implications such as LA21 Environment, Human Rights Act 1998. Equal opportunities, Community Safety, IT, Land and Property and Partnership Working.
3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Committee Services Manager.

## NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

### UNDER PARAGRAPH 11.1 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The following Motion to be submitted to Full Council on the date indicated below:-

This Council notes that it is now 13 years since Professor Sir Michael Marmot's landmark strategic review of health inequalities in the UK "Fair Society, Healthy Lives" which called for urgent action to address health inequalities in the UK.

This Council also notes Sir Michael Marmot's recent comments in the British Medical Journal that the imposition of austerity since 2010 has had a terrible and disproportionate effect on the poorest members of society.

Sir Michael makes a series of urgent recommendations to address this growing inequality including action on child poverty, working conditions and climate.

This Council resolves to write to the Office of the Prime Minister to urge his Government to listen to one of our leading experts on health inequalities and to begin to implement his recommendations as a matter of extreme urgency and to the benefit of poorer families across the country and here in Rossendale.

Date of Council Meeting:-

13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Notice submitted from

Councillor McInnes

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Councillor MacNae

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Notice received and validated by the S151 Officer: Karen Spencer

Comments: No financial implications.

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Notice received and validated by the Monitoring Officer: Clare Birtwistle

Comments: No legal implications.

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Notice received on behalf of the Head of the Paid Service and entered in the book open to Public Inspection

Received by: Rob Huntington

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

### UNDER PARAGRAPH 11.1 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The following Motion to be submitted to Full Council on the date indicated below:-	
Council resolves to designate remembrance events as civic events and includes them formally within the civic calendar.	
Date of Council Meeting:-	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
Notice submitted from	
Councillor Scott Smith	Date: 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
Councillor Jenny Rigby	Date: 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
Notice received and validated by the S151 Officer: Karen Spencer	
Comments:  The Council currently spends £3,340 on traffic management for remembrance events, the adoption of this NoM will lead to this cost increasing.	Date: 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023
Notice received and validated by the Monitoring Officer: Clare Birtwistle	
Comments:  Presently these are community events organised by community and relevant organisations. There are 10 events listed on the official remembrance programme and this would create further resource implications.	Date: 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
Notice received on behalf of the Head of the Paid Service and entered in the book open to Public Inspection	
Received by: Rob Huntington	Date: 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2023