

Subject:	Bacup THI – Public Realm Consultation Report	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	26 th November 2014
Report of:	Health, Housing and Regeneration Manager	Portfolio Holder:	Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Impact Assessment:	Required: Yes	Attached:	Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required: No	Attached:	No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	Members note the contents of this report and Appendix 1.
1.2	All future negotiations and minor amendments to be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To advise members of the responses to the recent public consultation on the proposals to deliver a modern public realm scheme to Bacup town centre.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

Priority 1: Regenerating Rossendale: This priority focuses on regeneration in its broadest sense, so it means supporting communities that get on well together, attracting investment, promoting Rossendale, as well as working as an enabler to promote the physical regeneration of Rossendale.

Priority 2: Responsive Value for Money Services: This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.

Priority 3: Clean Green Rossendale: This priority focuses on clean streets and town centres and well managed open spaces, whilst recognising that the Council has to work with communities and as a partner to deliver this ambition.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Council were successful in being awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide an investment of £2million for the Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).

- 5.2 Whilst the main focus of the THI Programme is the refurbishment of 22 key town centre retail premises; a sum of £500,000 has been set aside to create a shared space within the town centre which will be part funded and delivered by Lancashire County Council. The aim of the shared space is to create a focal point for the town with more active frontages for business and a more pedestrian friendly centre which will encourage further investment in the town.

- 5.3 The concept plans for the renewed public realm space were made public in July 2014, a drop in session was held on 17th July and the plans were also on display in the local library for six weeks. Alongside this specific meetings were held with stakeholder groups from regional and local groups and a site visit was made available to Poynton the town centre of which had recently been redeveloped in a similar way.
- 5.4 The Concept Plans were also available on the Council and THI websites, and the ICT team set up a specific e-mail address to handle engagement responses. The plans were publicised widely in the local press and in local shops and noticeboards.
- 5.5 The report attached as Appendix 1 provides a full summary of all responses received and draws out the key elements which the designers can now use to inform their revisions.
- 5.6 The main points of the report are:
- 101 people and groups made formal responses
 - There was a range of views expressed on the Concept Drawings, with key concerns including:
 - The ability of the proposed highways layout to cope with HGV traffic and bus circulation
 - The capacity of drainage arrangements in any remodelled public realm scheme
 - The location and scope of the proposals
 - The removal and potential relocation of the fountain and the ideas for other enhancements that could make the public realm better
 - The ability of vulnerable road users to use any remodelled public realm safely
 - Several people felt that the proposed changes would be of benefit to the town.
- 5.7 The responses in general were of a high quality and suggested ways in which the concept plan could be improved, enhanced or altered to address some of the issues mentioned above. All responses have now been forwarded to the designers and highways engineers who will now consider how and whether these suggestions can be incorporated into the second stage plans for the scheme.
- 5.8 This is very much in the early stages of design and there will be more consultation and opportunities for people to comment as the plans are further developed in 2015.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 The Council has set aside £400k as an earmarked reserve with a balance of £100k to be funded by Lancashire County Council, being a total of £500k as match funding to the £1.5m Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1 Legal implications have been included with the report.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 8.1 This programme is a key contributing element to the Council's 'Regenerating Rossendale' priority and reviving our town centres through public realm development.
- 8.2 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken and no adverse negative or disproportionate impacts on protected equality groups have been identified. See Appendix 1.

8.3 Consultation detail to date is set out above. Further consultation will be undertaken as the plans developing during 2015.

8.3

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

9.1 Portfolio holder, members of the public, stakeholder groups.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 The THI Programme is a real opportunity to bring much needed investment and regeneration into the heart of Bacup. The public realm scheme is an intrinsic element of this and is designed to develop a stronger sense of place in Bacup's historic core, and provide a better setting for the town's built heritage. By providing a more welcoming, pedestrian- friendly town centre and through encouraging footfall, the public realm proposals will help with the wider economic regeneration of the town.

Background Papers

Document	Place of Inspection
Appendix 1 Bacup Public Realm Consultation Report October 2014	Attached