

REPORT TITLE:	Discharge of Roles and Responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council
REPORT AUTHOR:	Councillor Jane Scullion
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:	Regeneration and Resources Deputy Leader of the Council
DATE:	9th February 2022
MAJOR PROJECTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permission was secured for the Halifax Leisure Centre and the decision on whether to proceed to construction phase will be made at Council. The team have put the relevant arrangements in place to ensure that construction mobilisation can occur immediately should approval be given. • Project management resources have been put in place to manage Future High Street Fund and Town Deal initiatives in Todmorden, Elland, Halifax and Brighouse. Recruitment is underway for required programme management oversight of the overall prosperous towns' priority area. • Construction work at the Calder and Hebble Junction is continuing at pace with works to construct the overbridge and deliver highway widening progressing well. Traffic management operations are working effectively, and delays are being kept to a minimum. • Second round public consultation has now been completed for the Halifax Station Gateway. The consultation received a good response with nearly 500 people completing the survey. • Practical Completion has been achieved on the Northgate Commercial Development and the building is now being prepared for handover to occupiers Royal Sun Alliance. • The Trinity Sixth Form Centre Building at Northgate has received a Civic Trust Award alongside the Duke of Wellington's Regiment statue at Woolshops. • Asbestos survey updates are complete for the maintained school estate and updated Asset Management Planning Surveys are nearing completion. 	
CAFM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agreed Workplace / Office Accommodation Strategy remains on target and, following the lifting of Plan B restrictions, adjustments to our working arrangements are being progressed with staff and Members. • The delivery team for the Future High Streets Fund has been mobilised to progress plans for over £5m of external investment into Halifax Borough Market and £1.8m into Victoria Theatre. 	

- Business cases for a number of requests for community asset transfer of former library buildings have been received and are being evaluated.
- Plans for investment in the corporate estate have been included in the proposed budget, to ensure the safety of staff and service users and to progress key council priorities.

TOWNS DEVELOPMENT FUND

- Formal Grant Offer letters received from DLUHC for both Town Deals - Todmorden £17.5m and Brighouse £19.1m as well as 5% advance payments.
- Now working with Project Sponsors to prepare the Town Deal full business cases, which will enable the total draw down of £36.6m for Todmorden and Brighouse. Business cases will be submitted in the summer.
- Two significant grant offers have been made in Sowerby Bridge via the HAZ programme for Fire and Water and the Old Town Hall capital works.
- Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd Town Board are about to commence a master planning exercise to inform their future activity.
- Halifax Town Board will shortly participate in an activity supported by the Government's High Streets Task Force to inform their future planning.
- Work underway to revitalise Elland Town Board.
- Recruitment to the Programme Manager role is now underway.

PLANNING & BUILDING CONTROL

The final Local Plan Examination hearing was completed on 11 January. This concludes 2 ½ years of hearings over 5 separate sessions. Officers are currently completing various 'housekeeping' tasks prior to the Inspector being able to issue her post hearings letter. The Inspector has confirmed that a letter could not be issued during the pre-election period, and as such we are expecting to receive it soon after the Local elections in May. If the outcome is positive, we would then move to the stage of advertising the main modifications that are required to make the Plan sound, as pre-cursor to Local Plan adoption.

The other news from Planning is that we have recently made two key appointments to senior positions: the Development Manager – leading on the applications and enforcement side of the Service; and the Planning Strategy Manager, leading on policy. These posts report directly to the Corporate Lead and will be starting over the next couple of months.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Park Road reopening on the 4th Feb: Park Road was originally closed in February 2020 when it was seriously damaged by a landslip after significant flooding caused by Storm Ciara. On the road itself, vertical movements of 300mm caused cracking over a 60-metre length of the road, as well as some smaller tension cracks. This meant that it had to be fully closed for safety reasons whilst complete reconstruction was carried out.

Salt Barn Completion: Construction of the 12,000 tonne capacity salt barn has recently completed. This will deliver both cost savings and environmental benefits according strongly with the ethos of Vision 2024.

New streetlighting maintenance contract: The Council have recently changed delivery partner and entered into a new streetlighting maintenance contract with EON.

Corridor Improvement Programme 1 breaks ground: Clerk of Works was appointed, and contract awarded for construction. Construction started on Tuel Lane, Sowerby Bridge and will continue along the A58 and A646 until 2023.

Corridor Improvement Programme 2 receives OBC approval: The A629 North programme receives approval to proceed to Full Business Case based on the high scenario. FBC approval is expected early 2023. The programme aims to deliver corridor improvements from Illingworth to Halifax.

North and West Halifax 'Streets for People' receives OBC approval: The Transforming City programme for Calderdale focuses on pedestrian and cycling improvements in Park Ward, Illingworth and Ovenden in close collaboration with the communities. FBC approval is expected in early 2023.

Lee Mount and Beech Hill School Streets operational: Both school streets became operational last quarter and are working well bringing significant benefits to school children, parents and residents on these streets.

Elland Access Package receives planning approval: EAP received planning permission and cabinet approval to submit CPO to the Secretary of State. Both Elland Station and the Access package will progress to FBC, submission in December 2022.

Social Prescribing Pilot awarded: Transportation and Public Health were awarded circa £1M Social Prescribing Pilot funding. This funding will enable health professionals to prescribe activity for patients.

ECONOMY, HOUSING & INVESTMENT

Inclusive Economy

The next Inclusive Economy Recovery Board (IERB) will take place on 3rd February with a focus on Employment and Skills. This will include an update on employment and skills development from WYCA and their Employment and Skills Framework along with a presentation from Grant Soames, Head of Adult Learning. The board will then discuss how Calderdale can explore and improve the employment and skills agenda through a coordinated approach across all themes and directorates. The next IERB will also include an update on the most recent Covid Impact Assessment from the Business Intelligence Team.

Park and Warley Project

Social Care Pathway- 15 social care placements have started at Women's Activity Centre in Park ward with Calderdale College, as part of a test and learn pilot developing a local social care pathway.

Work Experience - Building on the success of their Healthy Holidays project in the summer we are currently working with Unique Community Hub (UCH) to develop a localised solution to work experience coordination across Park and Warley aimed initially at South Asian young

people aged 14-25 but with the potential to reach a wider audience including care leavers. The work experience pilot will form part of the existing youth provision provided by UCH and provide a coordination service across the area to support other youth organisations to access work experience opportunities.

Support for St Augustine's Centre - The Steering Group recently agreed funding for 3 programmes at the centre. The funded year will support St Augustine's to be able to deliver sustainable programmes of support and help people without access to formal provision prepare for the jobs market including possible social enterprises. Centre members have a range of different skill sets which could potentially form the basis of a social enterprise, including establishing a cookery school, events catering, interpreting services, bike maintenance, tech refurbishment, beauty and hairdressing._

The three funded programmes are:

- **English Language Programme** provides basic, intermediate, and advanced English language classes to people newly arrived in Calderdale and seeking asylum, and specific support for people with little or no literacy, people needing childcare or trauma informed support.
- **Activities and Integration Project** provides a range of sports, arts, cultural and enterprise activities to centre members, including opportunities to gain work skills through volunteering in different ways within the St Augustine's Centre and across Calderdale. Also, Integration Programme with new arrivals and others who are isolated to develop confidence, sense of belonging and wellbeing by encouraging involvement in the activity programme.
- **Befriending Service** for newly arrived or vulnerable Sanctuary seekers is currently in its pilot 3-month phase.

Food & Culture Festival - A celebration of diversity and culture in Calderdale maximising opportunities for local people to enjoy, learn and experience a larger life. A working group made up of local organisations is planning a month-long programme of events in June 2022 as a platform for multiple community engagement, involvement and promotional opportunities for business, community groups and public services.

Social Value – The role profile for the Social Value Improvement Officer has been reviewed and is due to go out to recruitment in the next few days. This role will continue to work with third sector, private and public sector partners towards a cultural shift in Calderdale that looks for relevant social, environmental, and economic value from everything that we do, in our business, in service delivery, commissioning and procurement; and to use the purchasing power of the 'Calderdale pound' to build social value and community wealth; obtaining the greatest benefit for local citizens.