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| 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: | 23rd March 2022 |

MAJOR PROJECTS

Ash Green Community Primary School

Following the devastating fire in early February, which affected an entire extension to the school, Officers have worked collaboratively with the school, DfE and insurers in a huge effort to get school back up and running as soon as possible. A vast amount of planning, coordination and works that would ordinarily have taken months to complete has been delivered in a matter of weeks, enabling the pupils to return to school after the February half term. Since the start of February, the fire damaged section of the building has been completely demolished and cleared off site, the existing building has been deep cleaned, with existing services either being capped off, diverted and upgraded, the temporary modular classroom has been installed on the staff car park and a new temporary staff car park (1500m²) has been created on the land between the school and Mixenden Activity Centre. A haul road is currently being installed to provide access for the Principal Contractor for the rebuild.

Ryburn Valley High School

Site set up was established over the February half term and works to dismantle the existing lean-to dining structure has commenced, together with breaking ground for the new 4 classroom expansion. At this early stage of the construction phase, all works are progressing as expected.

A641 Corridor Improvement Programme

A major milestone was reached last week with the submission of the scheme Outline Business Case (OBC) to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. This high profile transport scheme is set to deliver £75M improvements along an 8 mile stretch of the A641 between Bradford and Huddersfield with the bulk of the investment being

focused on sustainable travel and associated highway improvements in Brighouse. This major investment will help promote active travel opportunities in the area, unlock key growth sites including the proposed Garden Suburbs and help mitigate existing issues concerning congestion and poor air quality. Approval of the OBC is anticipated in the summertime and work is already underway to support preparing the scheme Full Business Case. Construction works are due to be completed by 2025 /2026.

A629 Corridor Improvement Programme

Infrastructure design is now nearing completion on the West Yorkshire Plus Transport fund (Phase 2) project in Halifax Town Centre. The team will place a tender into the market for this £48m project in late April. This project is the largest project ever delivered by the Council and will greatly improve the utility and attractiveness of Halifax Town Centre.

Halifax Leisure Centre

Required tree removal at North Bridge has been carried out and the team are aiming for contractor mobilisation by the end of March. Legal work on contracts is in progress and the team are resolving some issues regarding the Bowling Dyke access to the site. Major Projects are working closely with Strategic Infrastructure to find a solution to bridge condition and weight issues.

Mixenden Hub

Officers continue to work to resolve commercial issues regarding the Mixenden development with partners in Health.

Future High Street Fund – Halifax & Elland

The consultant and project team are now in place for each project within this programme. The timescales associated with the funding are extremely challenging and the team are attempting to compress design and consultation processes into a smaller timeframe to make this work.

Northgate

We have been told by contractors to expect Practical Completion of the final (MEP) trade package by Friday 11th March, followed by a two-week handover period to RSA.

CAFM

Organisational Change

- Following Council approval of capital investment required into the estate, work is progressing to programme and progress the agreed works. An overview of

progress will be reported to the Asset Management Board, who will oversee the programme and keep the position under review.

- This will add to the change programmes agreed previously, including the first phase of the Asset Review Programme, which is nearing conclusion on time and within budget, and the Workplace / Office Accommodation Strategy, which continues to progress well and remains on track. As agreed by Cabinet recently, works are proceeding to reconfigure Horton Street as a key base for our children's social work staff and as a front door for those residents who require face-to-face support.

Revitalising the Economy

- The Future High Street Funded Schemes for Halifax Borough Market and Victoria Theatre, together totalling over £6m of external investment into these key iconic buildings, are being critically reviewed, planned and mobilised. The aim of these schemes is to support the Borough's economic recovery, building back better.
- In direct support of this activity, we are about to launch a campaign to promote opportunities for traders in our markets, particularly Halifax Borough Market. The aim of this campaign is to attract new traders, building on some of the experiences over the last two years or so and using more flexible opportunities, and to retain existing traders at a time when there is so much investment coming into our towns, creating great opportunities.

TOWNS DEVELOPMENT FUND

Brighouse Town Deal

The external professional team has now been appointed to assist the Council and the Brighouse Town Deal Board to prepare Full Business Cases for each of the 5 projects that comprise the Town Deal scheme. The Government has awarded £19.1M of funding toward a raft of projects designed to transform Brighouse town centre. These include a programme of public realm improvements and plans to revitalise Brighouse Market. Full Business Cases will now be prepared for approval by the summertime. In addition to co-ordinating this work, Major Projects staff have also been actively supporting the development of the Town Deal Board including the recruitment of new Board members from business and community sectors to further strengthen the existing team.

Todmorden Town Deal

Project Sponsors have now been identified and work is progressing to procure an external professional team to assist in developing the 10 full Business Cases and secure the £17.5m grant funding for Todmorden.

Future High Street Fund – Halifax & Elland

The consultant and project team are now in place for each project within this programme. The timescales associated with the funding are extremely challenging and the team are attempting to compress design and consultation processes into a smaller timeframe to make this work.

Sowerby Bridge Heritage Action Zone

Projects are on site at Fire and Water and the old Town Hall to support works that will bring both buildings back into use. Approval has also been granted for public realm improvements on the junction of Hollins Mill Lane and Town Hall Street.

PLANNING & BUILDING CONTROL

The next key event in the Local Plan process will be the Planning Inspector's post-hearings letter. This letter will not however be issued until after the current 6-week consultation on Habitat Regulations Assessment has concluded on 21 March. However, it is understood that the Inspector does anticipate issuing the letter in advance of the Pre-Election Period. Members will receive a further update on next steps after the letter has been received.

The other key area of work for the Service is the draft Improvement Plan, following receipt of the Peer Review Report last autumn and a detailed discussion at Place Scrutiny Board in January this year. The Board will be considering the Improvement Plan soon after the Elections. Following the decision to invest in Planning at the Budget Council, the process of recruiting to key posts has begun. Several other workstreams are being rolled out around the themes of staffing and development; performance management; customer service; and governance. Further updates will be provided on a periodic basis.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

ECONOMY, HOUSING & INVESTMENT

Inclusive Economy

We are pleased that the next Inclusive Economy Recovery Board (IERB) will take place on 12th April in person in the Piece Hall with a focus on Culture and Tourism including discussion on the cultural industry, the creative and visitor economy. The board will then discuss how Calderdale can explore this and tackle issues through a coordinated approach across all themes and directorates. The next IERB will also

include an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and discussion about how Calderdale is able to make the most from this funding opportunity.

Developing a Strategic Plan with the Local Community for North Halifax

Following [Cabinet report approval in January 2022](#) activity to take forward the North Halifax work:

- Meeting held on 28th February to establish an Internal Working Group to join up Council input into taking this project forward and commit to a more joined up and community led way of working in North Halifax.
- Meeting held on 1st March to with local stakeholders to take this project forward with the local community.
- WY Mayor Tracy Brabin visited Mixenden on 4th March. Meeting local stakeholders including ward members and hearing key messages about hopes and aspirations, and the need to level up and invest in North Halifax.
- Meeting with Local Ward Councillors scheduled for 17th March to ensure that they are involved and shaping the work.
- Next steps will be to draft a Project Plan, based on the engagement to date, and establish partnership governance and local priorities for action. This will be co-produced with local community partners, in particular North Halifax Partnership.

The Park and Warley Pilot

The Inclusive Economy Team are continuing to take forward lots of projects in partnership with community partners the focus this last month has been on encouraging women into business and work.

Plans are also well advanced for FlavourFest

A Food & Culture Festival which will be taking place in June. 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. Using food as a unifying theme for people to gather around and demonstrate how the area and communities within it are distinctive, talented, enterprising, kind and resilient. The festival will feature a weekend market at Calderdale College and include a small grants pot to fund many smaller community events as well as varied educational and work experience opportunities.

BUSINESS & SKILLS

Inspire Update

We have now appointed two new Clients Support Officers to help with the growing demand of local residents wanting help to find work and access training. Also, we have recruited a new Marketing Officer to help promote the services and the partners support, and also to build strong case studies to show the real impact of the Inspire

Programme. Closer working has been established with Maximus who deliver the DWP Restart Programme so we can add extra support to those who have more complex barriers. Work is planned with the partners to attend the local food banks to provide support and also attend the planned Fuel Poverty Events to give help around debt recovery and links to local training provision..

Employment Hub 2

Employment Hub now has **334** people registered and offers a broad range of support for employed and unemployed people of any age.

Growth Hub

On 14th February a Workshop was held with seven local businesses around applying for the Queens Award for Enterprise. The event was supported by Martin Haigh who spoke about his experiences as a winner of the award for his business Latitute7. The seven businesses will be supported by the team to help submit before the closing date in May 2022.

On 31st March CMBC are hosting an event at Berties in Elland for local businesses to be made aware of new changes to Procurement Laws, access to government contracts, and to learn about the social value opportunities which need to be evidenced in all public sector commissioning.

VISITOR ECONOMY

Working with West Yorkshire DMO's to promote English Tourism Week, itineraries to promote staycations in West Yorkshire and Calderdale using #enjoywestyorkshire.

The full allocation of WBF (£372,000) will be used by end of March. Just some of the things the fund is contributing to:

- A cultural brand, which will build on Calderdale's identity as a cultural destination and to promote the year of Culture 2024.
- A social media support campaign for businesses around the borough'.
- Lamppost banners in Brighouse, Easter activities in Ripponden, Halifax, Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge.
- Tidy up operations around the borough including Elland, planters etc.
- Walking trails in Sowerby Bridge and various projects in Todmorden.

Place Development Team are continuing to gather valuable feedback, which will be mapped to draw down data. A Forward Plan is being developed to look at how the team can further support business growth in Calderdale.

Screen Tourism: filming for Marvel finished in January, and Gallows Pole and Happy Valley are filming this month.

Anne Lister Birthday Celebrations 1st to 10th April: almost 1,000 Americans expected to visit Calderdale over 10 days. Planned activities are being promoted as well as a complete guide of what to do whilst in Calderdale.