

REPORT TITLE:	Discharge of Roles and Responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council
REPORT AUTHOR:	Councillor Jane Scullion
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:	Regeneration and Strategy Deputy Leader of the Council West Yorkshire Combined Authority
DATE:	28 th September 2022
MAJOR PROJECTS	
<p>Project Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A641 Multi-modal Transportation Scheme: The A641 Full Business Case (FBC) Programme has been finalised and the team are now working on preparing the Full Business Case. In the interim period between Outline Business Case and Full Business Case, advanced works were carried out including Ground Penetrating Radar, Ground Investigations and Ecology Surveys. • Clifton Enterprise Zone Scheme: The Levelling-Up Fund (LUF) Round Two Bid was successfully submitted on the Government portal for the development of the proposed business park at Clifton Enterprise Zone on 2nd August 2022. A bid announcement is anticipated at some point during the Autumn. • Ryburn Valley High School: Final inspections, testing and commissioning for the new teaching and dining accommodation have taken place, prior to handover, which was achieved on the 5th September. The school returned on 6th September and are very pleased with their new accommodation. • Ash Green Primary: The Feasibility Study is progressing as planned. A schedule of accommodation and layout plans have been agreed, site surveys and concept designs are nearing completion for a new building to replace what was lost in the fire. Regular key progress meetings have been scheduled with school and the DfE throughout the feasibility phase, with the final meeting scheduled for 22nd September, before progressing to detailed design in October. • Ravenscliffe@Spring Hall: Following the bidding period for the appointment of a multi-disciplinary design team, for the school expansion, Officers have been working to agree a contract off the SCAPE framework, for RIBA stages 0-7. Final 	

contract documentation has been presented to legal for review and execution, with the formal appointment almost complete.

- **A629 Phase 1b:** Construction works continue to progress well and recent design challenges regarding the re-routing of statutory undertakings have now been resolved, albeit with some impact to programme. The project team continue to address material price issues brought about due to recent inflationary pressure. Traffic Management on the site is functioning well and under constant review.
- **A629 Phase 2:** The project design is nearing completion and the scheme will shortly be tendered on the open market. This is a key milestone for the project and is a requirement of the WYCA assurance process which will provide construction phase funding for the project. Once tender prices are received the team will assess the impact of recent inflation on the scope of the project and whether current deliverables are still realistic within mandated funds.
- **A629 Phase 4:** Work continues in partnership with Kirklees Council to continue with preliminary design as part of the FBC development.
- **Halifax Station Gateway:** Preliminary design is now complete, and the project team are developing the planning application for submission in Q3. Discussions are on-going with Network Rail to determine route and arrangements of detail design and delivery. The financial implications of current construction and energy inflation are being explored.
- **Northgate Commercial Development:** The development is now complete and Royal Sun Alliance (RSA) have taken the building. They have moved staff into the building throughout the month of August and are now fully operational on site.
- **Mixenden Hub:** A Cabinet report on 8th August was approved, detailing change in key tenant from the Caritas GP Group to the North Halifax Primary Care Network along with scheme increased costs due to inflation and delays. The report was called in for Scrutiny on 25th August and was released following this meeting.
- **Halifax Leisure Centre:** Yorkshire Water commenced the re - siting of the water mains in July, which is due to be completed late September. The original construction contractor (McCloughlin Harvey) withdrew from the scheme in mid-July; a recovery plan via the current procurement route (UK Leisure Framework) has provided a suitable contractor and following due diligence checks the contracts are currently being drawn and expected to be signed at the end of September, with site mobilisation in October.

PLANNING & BUILDING CONTROL

The Local Plan examination has now passed an important milestone: the consultation on the proposed Main Modifications to the Plan started on 12th August and will run for two months until 7th October.

This consultation is an opportunity for people to have their say on the changes to the Plan that are considered necessary to make it sound and legally compliant.

After the consultation, the Inspector will consider the comments received before issuing her final report. If the Inspector considers that the Plan is sound and legally compliant, the final decision on adoption will be taken by Full Council. We aim to reach this stage by the end of 2022; however, we are dependent on the Inspector issuing her report.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Already this financial year the Highway Service has dealt with almost 9,000 customer service requests. Over the last quarter Strategic Infrastructure have achieved the following:

Surfacing

Surface dressed 25km of carriageway at the following locations:

Road	Length	Width	Area	Cost
Cold Edge Road	1,830	6	10,980	£45,018
Wakefield Road	2,400	7.3	17,520	£71,832
Scammonden Road	5,730	6	34,380	£140,958
Halifax Road	4,450	7.5	33,375	£136,837
Brighouse and Denholm Gate	740	7.3	5,402	£22,148
Leeds Road	1,440	7.5	10,800	£44,280
Whitwell estate	1,400	6	8,400	£34,440
Grasmere estate	650	6	3,900	£15,990
Rooley and Newlands	1,730	6	10,380	£42,558
Dean Lane to Birks Lane	3,800	5	19,000	£77,900
Seed Hill Terrace	530	6	3,180	£13,038
Total			157,317	£644,999

Flood Team

- Approximately 39 flooding / drainage issue were reported between 1st of June and 31st of August compared with 93 during the previous quarter. Of these, 30 have either been visited or remotely reviewed and issues resolved. Nine incidences are subject to ongoing investigations and 1 site requires a visit.
- Camera and flow monitoring equipment has been installed at Oakhill Clough in order to allow remote monitoring of the trashscreen.

- A draft of the February 2020 Section 19 (Flood and Water Management Act Section 19 statutory flood investigation report) has been completed and sent to the Risk Management Authorities for consultee comment.
- Significant vegetation clearance works have been carried out at Sowerby Bridge Calder Valley flood storage lagoon.

Traffic Regulation

- Haworth Old Rd – Consultation of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order is now complete, and the Order is being finalised with a proposed start date of 25th September.
- Brighouse Accelerator Experimental Traffic Regulation Order has been reviewed by the Governing Body and it is anticipated that this will be confirmed in the next few days.
- The amendments to the Trinity Street Parking Places Order (conversion of P+D bays into disabled bays) being carried out in order to facilitate the Lloyds Bank building improvement programme is progressing well and is due to be completed by the end October.
- The various Corridor Improvement Programme Traffic Regulation Orders are progressing well.

Structures Team

- Commenced the inspection and replacement of all Lit Bridge Height Signs within the Borough. This is expected to take approximately 2 years to complete.
- Begun to rebuild the failed retaining walls at Elland Rd, Elland and Bankhouse Lane, Salterhebble.
- Continue to develop the detailed design of the North Bridge Suicide Prevention scheme.
- Continued the design of the Shaw Wood Road Canal Bridge.

Transportation and Road Safety

- The new MOVA system for the Hipperholme signalised junction is installed and the overall update is now complete.
- The Marsden gate junction with Forest Hill Road (Sowood) safety scheme is complete.
- The Woodhouse Lane and Daisy Road (Brighouse) traffic calming scheme is complete.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS AND CALDERDALE'S INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

Business Growth

The Growth Managers continue to work with approximately 50 businesses across the district, offering one-to-one advice, site visits and referrals to funded support that is

available. We have also increased visibility of the project and offer through regular newsletters, email campaigns and social media activity.

The main issues concerning businesses currently are rising energy costs. Many businesses are nearing the end of their fixed term energy contracts and will now only be able to get a standard contract based on current energy cost rates. We have been promoting the ReBiz scheme through which businesses can access grants towards energy saving measures such as LED lighting, energy efficient boilers, building insulations, more efficient compressors, and now solar panels.

Some businesses are also looking at their business efficiency and becoming more 'digital' in their operations with Customer Relationship Management (CRM) packages, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) packages, other bespoke software packages and other specialist systems which we have been able to help with through the Digital Enterprise programme which offers grant support.

Another ongoing issue for many businesses from all sectors is recruitment. They are struggling to attract the right calibre of talent despite using all available recruitment avenues. We work with the Employment Hub to share recruitment advice, help businesses with their recruitment process and advertising the roles, which is often well received. We also work with the Skills for Growth service who can help businesses look at higher level roles in their business by engaging with universities to look at higher level Apprenticeships, Graduate placements, and work experience.

The Let's do business' two-day event will bring experts and knowledge to Calderdale on subjects such as Reducing Your Environmental Footprint, Strategic Decision Making and Marketing, Introduction to Leadership and Management and an introduction to recruitment and apprenticeships. The event aims to increase knowledge, create confidence and new connections. Postponed during the period of national mourning, the dates for October are to be confirmed shortly.

Visitor Economy

Numerous events have taken place around the borough throughout the Summer and seen 1000s of people in attendance. A CultureDale twitter feed (@CultureDale2024) was launched in July in support of the new brand that showcases our cultural offering and experience as a destination, and we are developing a campaign to build awareness of the brand up to Year of Culture 2024.

Filming enquiries continue to grow and the team are looking at implementing a system which can track the economic impact of filming. Happy Valley is due to be aired in the next few months.

The team is already working with West Yorkshire colleagues on Christmas itineraries to promote staycations in West Yorkshire and Calderdale using the hashtag #enjoywestyorkshire.

Inclusive Economy

As the Park and Warley Inclusive Economy comes to an end in December 2022, the first stage of evaluation has been progressed: the coproduction of a report documenting the views of Park and Warley stakeholders. The report will discuss the project design and implementation, learning, and outlines recommendations for future approaches to strategic place development and current and planned investment in local communities particularly in advance of UKSPF and North Halifax work. Over the coming months wider stakeholder consultation will take place through an external evaluation conducted by Leeds Beckett University.

Calderdale has secured £2.8m UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and has committed to investing it in North and Central Halifax, matched against additional resources.

The West Yorkshire UKSPF Local Investment Plan includes an allocation of resources at a borough level, to enable local areas to design delivery in a way that best reflects local needs and opportunities. Cabinet has agreed that this resource is best focused on the Council's priority of tackling inequalities, and specifically on those areas of greatest need in the wards of Ovenden, Mixenden, Illingworth, Park, Warley and Town.

Work with local partners has started to co-produce activity around key areas that will:

- Reduce the cost of living
- Work with local employers and aspiring entrepreneurs (particularly micro businesses)
- Support the creation of and improvements to local green spaces and increase resilience to natural hazards such as flooding
- Support active travel enhancements
- Support local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities
- Develop social and human capital and invest in community engagement.

This will result in outcomes including new jobs and businesses, and supporting businesses to engage in new markets, as well as increased engagement and volunteering, use of cycleways and take up of energy efficient measures.

WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

WYCA Programme Review and Construction Price Inflation

Levels of inflation in the construction industry have been extremely high for the last two years, and we are seeing composite levels of over 12% and individual spikes for specific materials (e.g., increases in steel of 93%).

Given most capital budgets for external projects were set before inflationary pressure was priced in (e.g., West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund (WY+TF) budgets set in 2014), it is proving extremely challenging to deliver the projects within their current allocated funding limits. Discussions are on-going with West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) to determine the impact of inflation on WY+TF and Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) programmes of work.

Cost of Living

Calderdale officers and members have welcomed WYCA's recent focus on addressing the impact of the cost of living. This will support local work which will be the focus of a "scrutiny in a day", and the forthcoming Cabinet paper in November focusing on impact and action.

Work is progressing with WYCA to consider how additional resources can be channelled into the ReBiz programme that supports businesses with energy efficiency (as above) and also into voluntary sector organisations working with those most impacted by rising costs.