

PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS SCRUTINY PANEL

Day: Tuesday
Date: 19 March 2024
Time: 6.00 pm
Place: Committee Room 1 - Tameside One

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest from members of the Scrutiny Panel.	
3.	MINUTES To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the proceedings of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 9 January 2024.	1-2
4.	TAMESIDE MAJOR PROGRAMMES The Panel to meet Julian Jackson, Director of Place; Nicola Elsworth, Assistant Director; and Mike Reed, Head of Major Programmes, to receive an update on the ambition, progress and delivery of key strategic projects in Tameside.	3-54
5.	SCRUTINY ANNUAL BUDGET LETTER The Chair to update members on the annual budget letter presented at the joint meeting of Executive Cabinet and Overview Panel on 14 February 2024.	55-58
6.	SCRUTINY ACTIVITY 2023/24 The Chair to present a summary of activity undertaken during the 2023/24 municipal year.	59-62
7.	CHAIR'S UPDATE The Chair to provide a verbal update on activity and future priorities for the Panel.	
8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To note that this is the last formal meeting of the Scrutiny Panel for the 2023/24 municipal year.	

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Paul Radcliffe, Policy and Strategy lead, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

9. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any additional items the Chair is of the opinion shall be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel 9 January 2024

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.25pm

Present: Councillors Reid (Chair), Alam (Deputy), Ferguson, Glover, Gwynne, A Holland, McLaren, Robinson, Roderick

Apologies: Councillors Chadwick,

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by members of the Scrutiny Panel.

32. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 7 November 2023 were approved as a correct record.

33. LOCAL PLAN

The Panel welcomed Councillor Jan Jackson, Executive Member (Planning, Transport & Connectivity); Julian Jackson, Director of Place; and Graham Holland, Planning Policy Team Manager, to receive an update on developments and arrangements for Tameside.

Councillor Jackson introduced the item and provided an update on the Council's current position, requirements and the work ongoing at a local, regional and national level.

Members received background and context to plan making regarding the evidence base and legal requirements. A local development plan will focus on identifying and meeting the needs of the borough, consider the location for development and support the protection of existing assets. In order to deliver on key priorities and aspirations, the plan will give full consideration to:

- Employment and jobs
- Housing
- Affordable housing
- Town centres
- Design and delivery
- Green spaces

Reference was made to the Local Development Scheme and it was reported that going forward a proposed collection of plan documents will inform, support and establish a direction for the borough in updating and meeting all necessary requirements. This will include the following:

- Places for Everyone – joint development plan document for the region
- Home, Spaces, Places – Tameside's locality plan
- GM Joint Waste Development Plan
- GM Joint Minerals Plan

Background was provided on regional plan, Places for Everyone. The plan will be allocated between the combined authority and 9 districts, including Tameside, with adoption timetabled for early 2024. Members also received information on the development and scoping of Tameside's local development plan – Homes, Spaces Places. Scoping has included an integrated assessment, along with member and partner engagement.

It is important to establish clarity on ambitions set within the plan and what it aims to deliver and support as an overarching framework for people, places, homes, employment, travel and the environment. A plan-led system will therefore determine how the Council and partners deliver going forward, within an agreed structure to inform future development, regeneration and investment that best meets the needs of the borough as a whole.

Members received a timetable of proposed local development documents, including options appraisal, examination and adoption dates. Adoption of the local development plan document is set for autumn 2026.

Councillor Jackson and officers responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- Ambition and evidence based decision making.
- Challenges in relation to the supply of affordable housing and future priorities that reflect the needs of the local population.
- Developing for the future – inclusive, adaptable and accessible properties.
- Supported by improved infrastructure and networks.
- Effective and early engagement with residents and communities.
- Risks and opportunities associated with the locality plan going forward.

Actions: The points for action include:

- That the Scrutiny Panel is factored within future consultation activity and input to development and delivery stages of the local development plan.

34. SCRUTINY MID-YEAR BUDGET LETTER

The Chair presented response letter sent to the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation); and the Director of Resources, following the mid-year budget update received on 6 November 2023.

35. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair updated members on:

- Scrutiny annual budget meetings arranged for 15 January 2024.
- Community Safety working group arranged for 18 January 2024.
- Plans for the next Scrutiny Panel meeting, with a focus on the delivery of major projects.

36. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Tuesday 5 March 2024.

37. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items for consideration at this meeting.

CHAIR

Place Scrutiny Panel

Place Directorate

March 2024

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Agenda Item 4

Introduction

- The Council has successfully secured significant amount of external grant funding for regeneration, housing and infrastructure schemes in the last three years.
- Programme management approach to ensuring progress on key strategic projects against key milestones, decision points and future activity.
- The IDH service continue to seek external funding opportunities for Tameside including GMCA / Homes England to deliver the Councils regeneration priorities.
- Supported by work to raise the profile of Tameside's growth programme and ambitions attracting further private and public sector investment into the Borough.
- Appropriate governance, assurance, and monitoring arrangements in place to ensure delivery.

Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy

- Sets the overarching strategy for delivery of vibrant 21st century inclusive economy, providing skilled jobs, which support our residents to live happy, healthy lives.
- 13 key aims supported by 25 cross cutting priorities.



Tameside Regeneration Programme

Tameside
Inclusive Growth
Strategy

Ashton Mayoral
Development
Zone

Ashton Moss
Innovation Park

Ashton Town
Centre
Programme

Page 6
St Petersfield (inc
Ashton Old Baths)

Stalybridge Town
Centre
Programme

Hyde Town Centre
Programme

Godley Green
Garden Village

Hattersley
Regeneration
Programme

Denton Town
Centre
Programme

Droylsden Town
Centre
Programme

Tameside Local
Transport Strategy

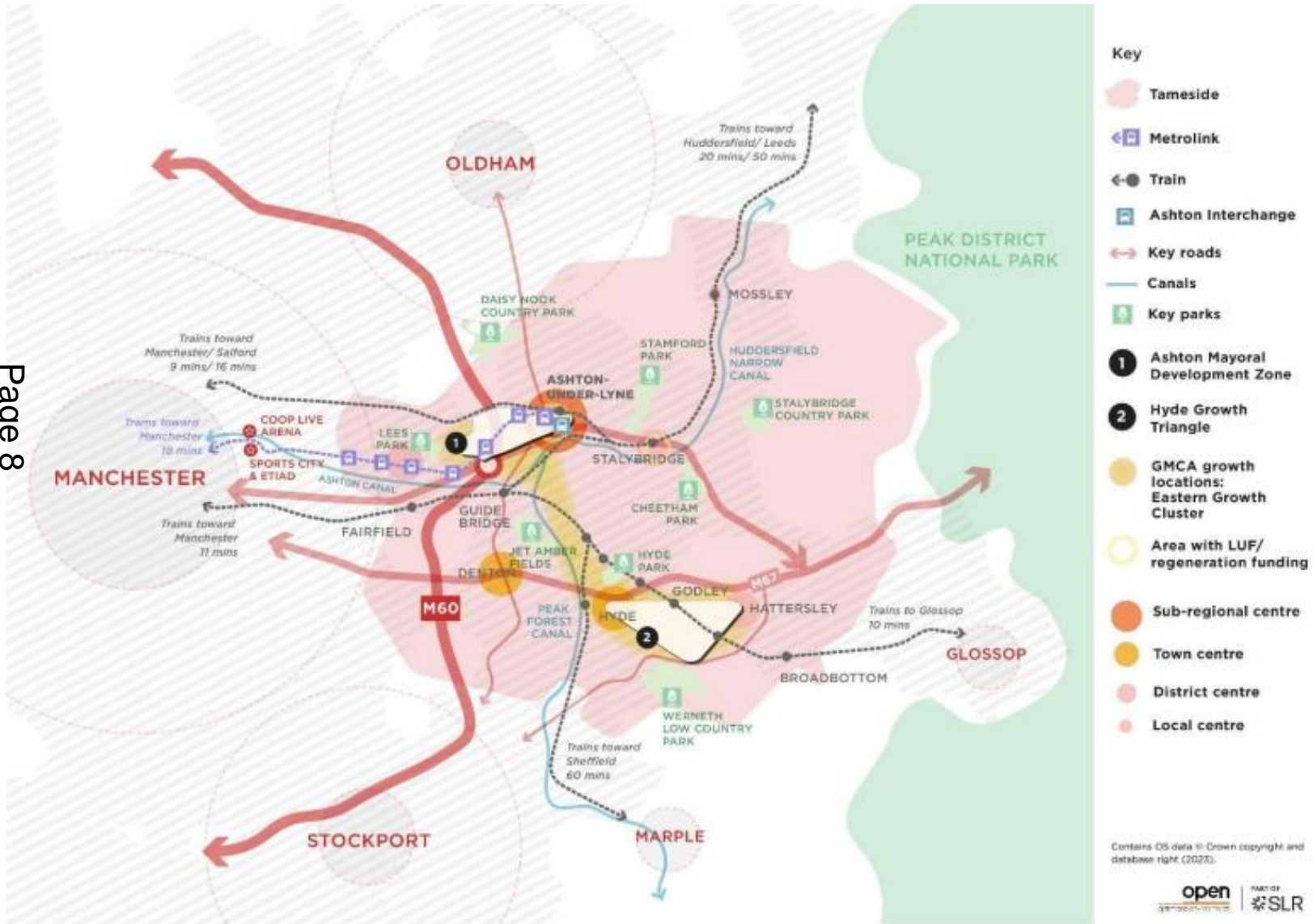
Priorities and Milestones

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Ashton Mayoral Development Zone

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Ashton Mayoral Development Zone

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AMDZ Current Priorities

The priorities for the next three months are as follows:

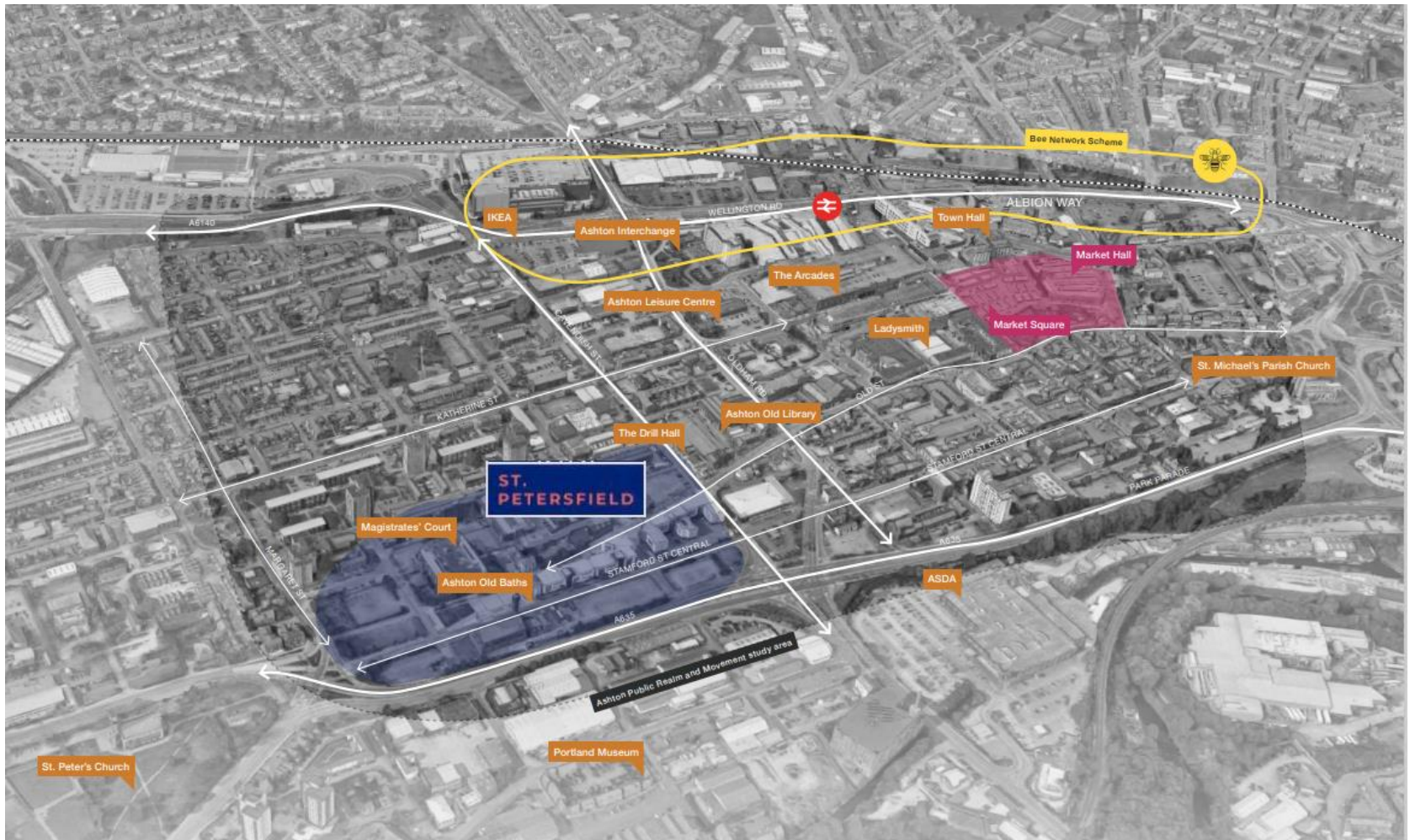
- Public launch of the AMDZ
- AMDZ Delivery Plan and Prospectus approval
- Articulating the market differential for Tameside
- Deep dive into projects to identify priorities of AMDZ for 2024/25 (St Petersfield, Ashton Moss, Ashton Town Centre)

Ashton MDZ Milestones

Ashton AMDZ	
Milestone	Date
Delivery Plan and Prospectus	March 2024
Identification of 24/25 priorities	March 2024
Council approval of Delivery Plan and Prospectus	June 2024

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Ashton Town Centre Programme



Ashton Town Centre Programme

	Project	Summary	Funding Secured
1	Ashton Market Square	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbishment of Market Square with clearance of fixed stalls, new canopy and kiosks and landscaping. 	£14.6m via LUF and £4.3m via Capital Programme
2	Ashton Market Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of defined food & drink, cultural and flexible space to future-proof Market Hall. 	£250,000 via UKSPF
3	Ashton Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 repair works to address health and safety issues and restore the historic façade. 	£3.4m via LUF
4	Former Bus Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land acquisition from TfGM and stage 1 remediation to facilitate future development opportunities. 	£1.8m via LUF
5	Shopping Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long term repurposing of the Arcades and Ladysmith Shopping Centres for mixed use development with new residential and retained retail core. 	£100,000 revenue from Homes England
6	Future Public Realm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashton Public Realm Strategy approved to support future funding bids. 	None at present

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Ashton Town Centre Current Priorities

Levelling Up Fund and UKSPF funding to be used by March 2025

The priorities for the next three months are as follows:

- Ward member, MP and market trader briefings
- Contract award decisions to enable Market Square works
- Decision to commence Market Hall internal works
- Ashton Town Hall contract award
- Former bus station site acquisition and ground investigations
- Shopping Centre Repurposing Delivery Strategy prepared

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Ashton Town Centre Milestones

Ashton Market Square (LUF)

Milestone	Date
Kiosk Contract Award	February 2024
Ward member and market trader briefings	February/March 2024
Delegated Decision Report - Kiosks	February 2024
Delegated Decision Reports – Canopy Contractor & Public realm materials	May 2024
Temporary market construction	June 2024
Kiosk decant and temporary market operational	June 2024
Start main construction works	June 2024
Completion	September 2025*

*LUF to be spent by March 2025. Council capital fund used to deliver remaining public realm works.

Ashton Market Square



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Ashton Town Centre Milestones

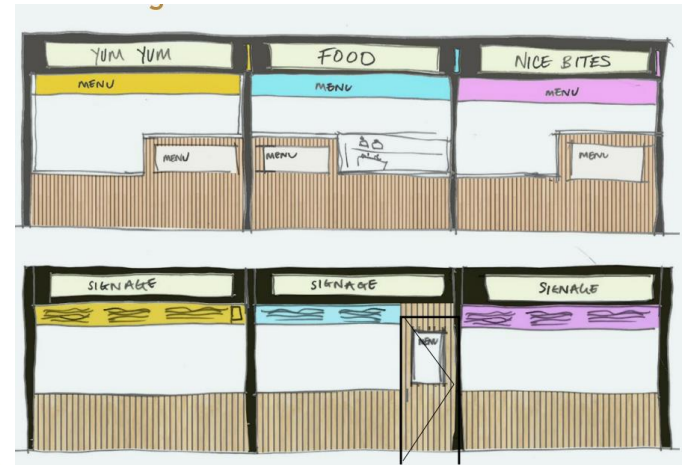
Ashton Market Hall (UKSPF)

Milestone	Date
Completion of project scope (Phase 1)	March 2024
Enter into contract with the LEP	June 2024
Additional Heritage Lottery Funding sought (Phase 2)	June 2024
Completion (Phase 1)	March 2025

Ashton Town Hall (LUF)

Milestone	Date
Executive Cabinet Approval	March 2024
Enter into contract with the LEP	April 2024
Site set up	May 2024
Completion	December 2024

Ashton Market Hall



Ashton Town Centre Milestones

Former Bus Station Site (LUF)

Milestone	Date
Site Acquisition Completed	April 2024
Stage 1 ground investigations	April 2024
Site set up	May 2024
Completion	March 2025

Shopping Centres Redevelopment (Homes England)

Milestone	Date
Delivery Strategy Prepared	June 2024
Update to Board/Executive Cabinet	July 2024
Identification of next steps	August 2024

St Petersfield and Ashton Old Baths

	Project	Summary	Funding Secured
1	St Petersfield Legacy Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenants to enter into DoV. Council will collect service charge from tenants. Council to enable striking off of Management Company (Ask) 	N/A
2	St Petersfield Partner Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive approval granted to enter into Development Agreement with partner. Framework to be used to secure development partner. 	Sources to be sought
3	St Petersfield Site Investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation works to be carried out that will inform remediation costs and support validation requirements for future planning applications. 	£170,000 via GMCA Growth Location (subject to approval)
4	Ashton Old Baths (internal works)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works to include creation of new office space (c250sqm), improvement works to existing spaces and screens for booths to create informal meeting spaces. 	£110,000 via UKSPF
5	Ashton Old Baths (external works)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair works to flat roof and both internal and external brickwork. LEP to lead on these works. 	£962,000 via UKSPF

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St Petersfield and AOB Current Priorities

UKSPF funding to be used by March 2025

The priorities for the next three months are as follows:

- Resolution of outstanding legacy matters with Estates and Legal
- Tender and prospectus issued for developer partner and route to market finalised
- Site investigations work undertaken
- Commencement of internal repurposing and external works at Ashton Old Baths

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St Petersfield and AOB Milestones

St Petersfield Legacy and Partner Procurement

Milestone	Date
Deed of Variation with existing tenants signed	May 2024
Tender and development prospectus issued	May 2024
Tender submissions review	August 2024
Development Partner appointment	October 2024
Contract Award	November 2024

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St Petersfield Site Investigations (GMCA)

Milestone	Date
Issue tender via Constellia for consultant to lead	March 2024
Tender submissions review	April 2024
Contract Award	April 2024
SI works to be undertaken	April – June 2024

St Petersfield and AOB Milestones

Ashton Old Baths (Internal Repurposing)

Milestone	Date
Architect appointed	January 2024
Listed Building Consent submitted	February 2024
Listed Building Consent Decision	April 2024
Commence works	April 2024
Completion on new office space	September 2024

Ashton Old Baths (External Works)

Milestone	Date
LEP appointed to carry out works	March 2024
Roof and brickwork repair works commence	May 2024
Completion of works	March 2025



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Ashton Moss Innovation Park

Stayley Developments



arqiva



Tameside
Metropolitan Borough

For everyone every day

Ashton Moss Current Priorities

The priorities for the next three months are as follows:

- Market subsidy and warranties advice from Legal
- Clarify approach of landowners
- Identify next steps to support delivery

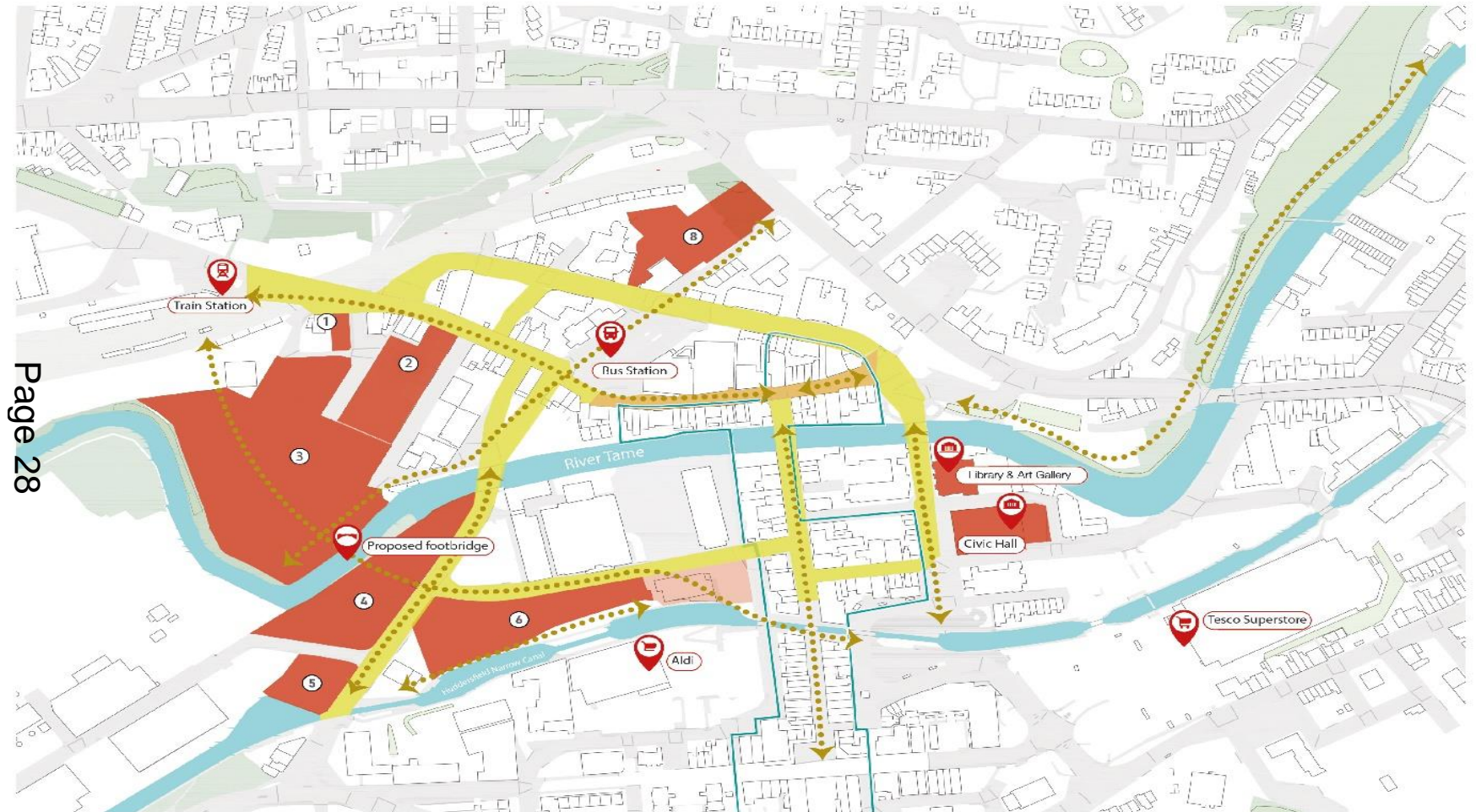
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Ashton Moss Milestones

Ashton Moss	
Milestone	Date
Market subsidy advice and warranties	March 2024
Clarify approach of landowners	April 2024
Identify next steps to support delivery	May 2024

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Stalybridge Capital Delivery



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- ① Current land: Nightclub and disused land
Proposed use: Residential development
- ② Current land: Warehousing and storage space
Proposed use: Commercial and residential development
- ③ Current land: Derelict land
Proposed use: Commercial and residential development
- ④ Current land: Derelict land
Proposed use: Commercial and residential development

- ⑤ Current land: Surface car park and vegetation
Proposed use: Residential development
- ⑥ Current land: Surface car park and vegetation
Proposed use: Residential development
- ⑧ Current land: Surface car park and banked vegetation
Proposed use: Multi-storey car park

Additional sites identified for development

- New pedestrian flow
- Retail core
- Active travel and public realm works
- Active travel and public realm (match funded) works

Stalybridge Town Centre Programme

	Project	Summary	Funding Secured
1	High Street Heritage Action Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created to help restore the town's local historic character. 	£1.27m via Historic England with Council match
2	Stalybridge Civic Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair works to the Civic Hall roof and building fabric to support increased use. 	£0.3m via Historic England, £0.3m via UKSPF, £0.9m via CRP, £1.4m via Council
3	Astley Cheetham Art Gallery and Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair works, internal and improved accessibility to the art gallery and library. 	£1.8m via CRP
4	Public Realm Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of public realm improvements across the Town Centre. 	£6.1m via CRP
5	Stalybridge West (Infrastructure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-provision of existing surface car parking and new pedestrian/cycle bridge across the River Tame. 	£11.2m via CRP
6	Stalybridge West (Partner Procurement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of a developer partner for the Council owned Stalybridge West sites. 	As above

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Stalybridge Town Centre Current Priorities

Remaining HSHAZ funding to be used by March 2024 and Capital Regeneration Projects funding to be used by March 2026

The priorities for the next three months are as follows:

- HSHAZ Programme Completion
- Strategy for future uses at the Civic Hall on completion of works
- Scope of works confirmed for Astley Cheetham Art Gallery & Library
- Draft public realm strategy completed
- Procurement of team for Stalybridge West infrastructure delivery
- Stalybridge West developer partner approach and route to market

Stalybridge Town Centre Milestones

Stalybridge HSHAZ

Milestone	Date
Programme Completion	March 2024

Stalybridge Civic Hall

Milestone	Date
Start on site	August 2023
Roof works complete	May 2024
Future use strategy agreed	June 2024
Completion	July 2024

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Stalybridge Town Centre Milestones

Astley Cheetham Art Gallery and Library

Milestone	Date
Design team appointed via LEP	February 2024
Design and feasibility completed	June 2024
Start on site	October 2024
Completion	October 2025

Stalybridge Public Realm

Milestone	Date
Draft public realm strategy completed	April 2024
Public realm strategy approved	June 2024
Detailed Design	September 2024
Start on site	October 2024
Completion	March 2026

Stalybridge Town Centre Milestones

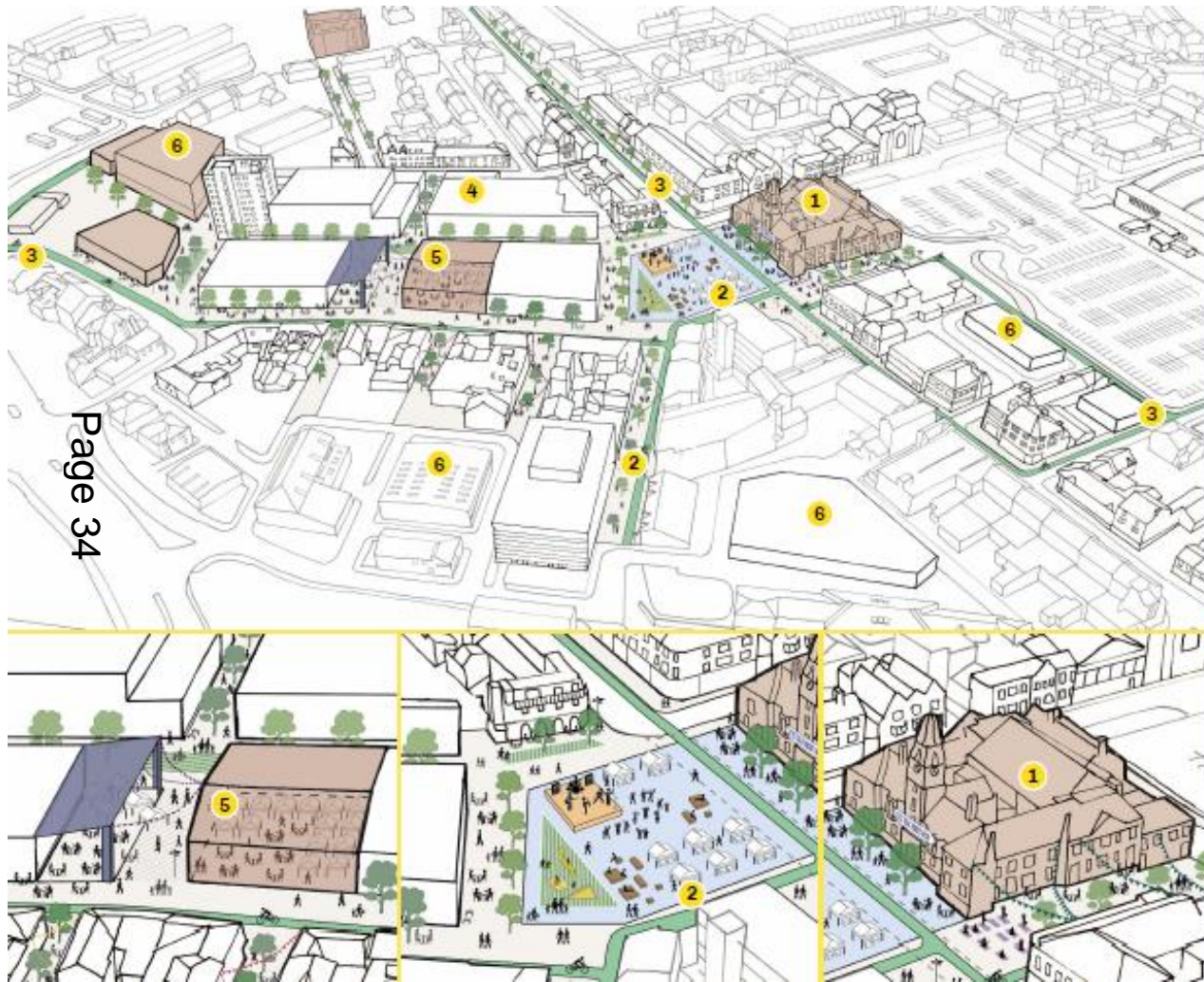
Stalybridge West (Infrastructure)

Milestone	Date
Stage 1 site investigations	February 2024
Stage 2 site investigations	May 2024
Project team appointed	June 2024
Planning submitted	January 2025
Start on site	April 2025
Completion	March 2026

Stalybridge West (Partner Procurement)

Milestone	Date
Approval on tender approach	April 2024
Developer partner procurement	TBC
Developer partner appointed	TBC

Hyde Town Centre Masterplan



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- 1** Re-purposing the Town Hall and the adjacent Market Square as a regionally significant cultural destination. Creating a flexible space to support a programme of cultural and community events and activities to attract visitors into the town centre.
- 2** Pedestrianisation of key areas of the town centre, creating a safe, attractive, green public realm.
- 3** Enhancing connectivity across the town centre, providing wider access to more sustainable and healthy ways to travel, creating a walkable/cycle friendly town.
- 4** Re-development of the Clarendon Shopping Centre, helping to improve permeability of visitors through the town centre and considering its offer and how it interacts with the neighbouring streets.
- 5** Relocation of the existing indoor and outdoor market facilities into new, flexible units on Market place, diversifying their offer within a prime location.
- 6** Consider key development sites within the town centre to create attractive gateways into the area and diversify the town centre offer.

Hyde Town Centre Programme

	Project	Summary	Funding Secured
1	Hyde Masterplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masterplan includes vision, objectives, development principles, concept designs and action plan. 	£100,000 via GMCA plus Council match
2	Market Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study undertaken to review existing market operations in Hyde and includes proposals for improvements to market spaces and operations. 	£11,000 via UKSPF
3	Outdoor Market Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal to remove existing fixed market stalls and to replaces with flexible provision such as gazebos and parasols. 	£70,000 via UKSPF
4	Hyde Accelerator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hyde nominated as one of ten locations across the country to take part in the programme with aims of reducing the number of vacant town centre units and improving the environment of the town. Partnership to be formed to lead on the priorities for spending. 	£237,000 seed funding and up to £500,000 via Accelerator Programme

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Hyde Town Centre Programme Current Priorities

Hyde Accelerator Seed Funding to be used by March 2024

The priorities for the next three months are as follows:

- Completion of seed funding projects £237,000
- Asset Management Report on Hyde Market (including removal of outdoor stalls)
- Hyde Accelerator Expression of Interest (£500,000) submitted
- Further projects and delivery programme to be agreed via Accelerator Partnership

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Hyde – Accelerator Partnership

- Building on the High Street Task Force, Hyde Town Centre nominated as one of 10 Local Authorities selected as High Street Accelerator Partnership Pilots.
- Partnerships will bring together residents, local businesses, and community organisations to deliver a long-term vision to regenerate the high street.
- £237k seed funding secured for 2023/24 to establish the partnership and develop a vision for the high street and wider town centre.
- Seed funding will also help facilitate projects that aim to make the high street cleaner, safer and more visually appealing to residents and stakeholders.
- Additional (up to) £500k of capital spend available to support greening projects on the high street to improve the quality of the environment.
- Accelerator Partnership funding will be used to support the short-medium term deliverables within the Hyde Town Centre Masterplan.

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Hyde Town Centre Milestones

Hyde Town Centre Masterplan (GMCA)

Milestone	Date
Executive Cabinet approval	February 2024
Hyde Town Hall Feasibility Study completion	March 2024
Development Appraisal Study completion	March 2024

Market Study and Outdoor Market Improvements (UKSPF)

Milestone	Date
Study completed	January 2024
Asset Management Report – removal of stalls	April 2024
Outdoor market stalls removal	May 2024
New flexible provision installed and operational	June 2024

Hyde Town Centre Milestones

Hyde Town Centre Accelerator Programme

Milestone	Date
Partnership membership agreed and established	February 2024
Initial projects identified for seed funding (£237,000)	February/March 2024
Expression of Interest (£500,000) submitted	February 2024
Further projects to be identified via Partnership agreement	April 2024
Delivery programme of projects to be agreed via Partnership	May 2024

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Hattersley Regeneration

- Collaboration Agreement with Barratt Homes, the Council, Onward Homes and Homes England signed in 2007.
- Hattersley Central Development on site and will deliver 161 affordable rent, shared ownership and extra care homes- 2024/25
- £4m to fund public realm infrastructure, such as playgrounds and green space, with a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and improvements to Waterside Clough - complete in 2024/25.
- RSK Group relocated MWH Treatment and local laboratory company Envirolab to expanded premises to establish new RSK Science Park on the edge of Hattersley
- Development agreement completed and planning application submitted for Hattersley District Centre Phase 2.
- Phase 2 district centre scheme to be delivered via Onward Homes anchored by a discount food store.

Hattersley Regeneration Programme Current Priorities

The priorities for the next three months are as follows:

- Approval of Hattersley Annual Report (March 2024)
- Design and engagement on remaining public realm schemes (Multi Use Games Areas and Waterside Clough).
- Delivery of Hattersley Central and Hare Hill housing schemes.
- District Centre Phase 2 awaiting planning decision.

Hattersley Milestones

Hattersley Regeneration	
Milestone	Date
District Centre Phase 2 Planning Decision	April 2024
District Centre Phase 2 Start on site	August 2024
MUGA and Waterside Clough public realm completed	March 2025
District Centre Phase 2 Completion	December 2025

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Godley Green Garden Village

The below illustration provides examples of how the Garden Village design components and townscape influences have been applied across the site.

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EXEMPLAR 21ST CENTURY RURAL EDGE HOUSING

Key exemplar design principles are captured within all of the below influences and designed into the masterplan.

Figure 6.3 - Delivering Garden Village Components (indicate aesthetic expression)



A UNIQUE GODLEY GREEN LANDSCAPE

1. Development subtly nestles into existing landscape features
2. Topography dictates the urban form
3. Habitat corridors and active travel links along existing hedgerows
4. Existing ponds retained and used as focal points within the villages
5. Historic hamlets are retained and protected with new buffers



THE BEST OF LOCAL TOWN AND COUNTRY

6. Contemporary rural homes 'hug' contour lines to create a terraced townscape
7. Distinctive 'farmstead on the hill' edges as witnessed along rural brows
8. Rows of contemporary terraces and townhouses along a grid of streets in denser areas
9. Stepping terraced streets work their way up sloping areas, delivering distinctive roof lines



HOWARD'S 'GARDEN CITIES'

10. Green streets including native hedgerow boundaries and integrated SuDS
11. Key central green spaces overlooked by adjacent community facilities
12. Wide development blocks form around community courtyards
13. Communal Growing Hubs and street farms
14. Mixed-use Village Centres including workshop space and social infrastructure



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

15. Solar panels on south facing roofs and key gables
16. Wildflower meadows and enhanced grassland create new village buffers
17. Substantial new areas of native tree and hedgerow planting
18. Large windows and habitable rooms along south-facing gables and elevations
19. Blocks oriented to maximise solar gain
20. Village Centres have potential to be served by a District Heating Network

Godley Green Garden Village

- Council have freehold interest within part of the site and have secured land option agreements, totalling 40% of land ownership across the site.
- Remaining land has been optioned by third party developers, with some third party land owners with interests in the site.
- Resolution to grant outline planning consent secured on 1 November 2023 with confirmation the application will not be called in by the Secretary of State.
- Site is also allocated within the GMCA spatial plan – Place for Everyone – adopted by Full Council in March 2024.
- Council now working with wider land promoters and landowners to agree collaboration requirements and signing of S106 agreement.
- Council now undertaking delivery options analysis and considering routes to market for a delivery partner(s) to implement scheme masterplan.

Droylsden Masterplan

- Strategically well positioned
 - Metrolink, M60, City Centre, Co-Op Live Arena
- Opportunity for change
- Appoint consultant team to prepare masterplan for town centre
- Masterplanning process began November 2023 and will complete in Summer 2024



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Droylsden Town Centre Programme Current Priorities

The priorities for the next three months are as follows:

- Review of survey results and stakeholder meetings
- Ward member briefing
- Executive Cabinet approval sought for draft masterplan and final consultation

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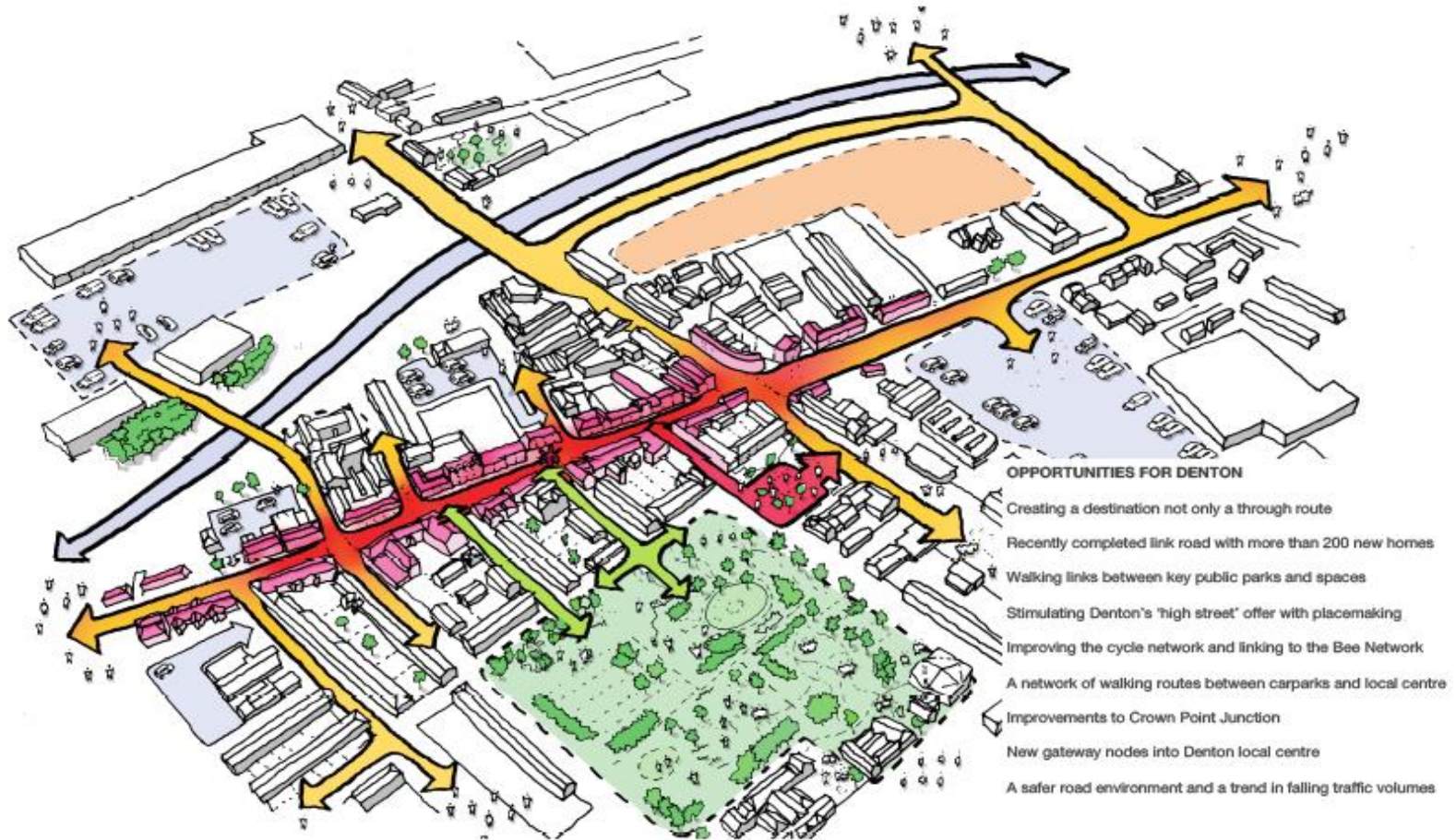
Droylsden Town Centre Milestones

Droylsden Town Centre Masterplan	
Milestone	Date
Fact finding exercise complete	February 2024
Review of survey results and stakeholder meetings	February 2024
Ward member briefing – fact finding	February 2024
Executive Cabinet Approval – draft masterplan and consultation	April 2024
Consultation on draft masterplan	June 2024
Review of findings	July 2024
Submission of final masterplan for review	August 2024
Executive Cabinet Approval – Final Masterplan	November 2024

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Denton Town Centre Programme

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Denton Town Centre Programme

	Project	Summary	Funding Secured
1	Denton Public Realm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provision of town centre public realm improvements..	£4.5m LUF*
2	A57 Crown Point Walking & Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved pedestrian and cycle routes and cycle parking across the town centre	£9.3m LUF*, £1.95m Active Travel Fund
3	Denton Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Works to the building supporting increased use.	£0.8m LUF*
4	Denton Festival Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Funding towards work at the Festival Hall site to provide a long term sustainable future for the site	£2.2m LUF*

* MOU for Denton LUF 3 assumed in March/April 2024 following project validation

Denton Town Centre Current Priorities

Denton LUF funding to be used by March 2026

The priorities for the next three months are as follows:

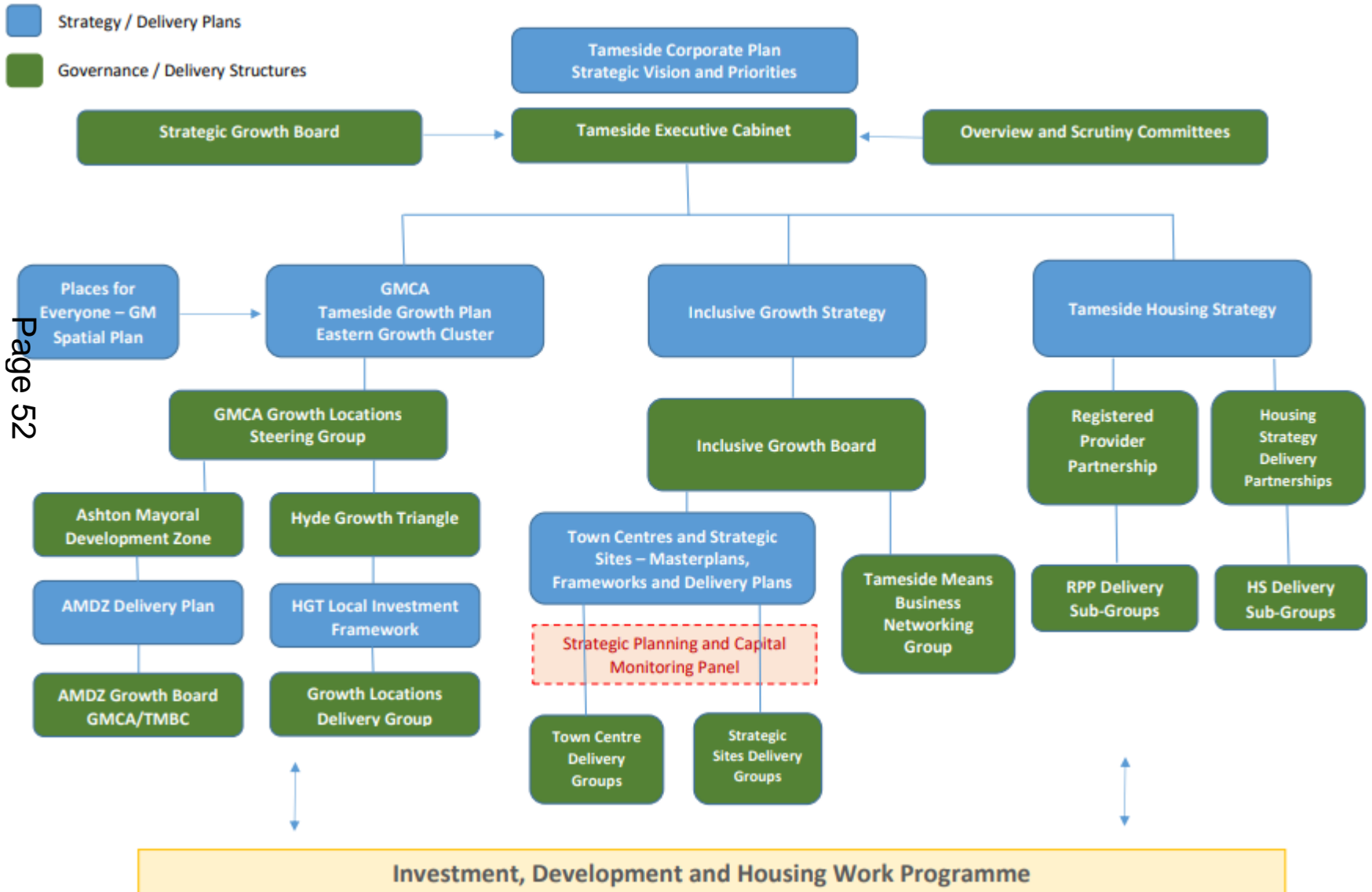
- Project validation response submitted
- MoU to be reviewed on receipt and report prepared seeking approval
- Homes England support secured to complete initial feasibility study in relation to Denton Festival Hall
- Detailed programme/milestones to be prepared following signing of MoU

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Governance & Assurance

- Embedded monthly team project review meetings, monitoring of performance data using Excel
- Monthly construction pipeline meeting with Operations and Neighbourhood colleagues
- Place Board which oversees all projects and programme
- Ashton & Stalybridge Project Board
- Hyde Accelerator Partnership
- UKSPF Board
- Series of Steering & Delivery Group Meetings

Governance & Assurance



Raising Tameside's Profile

- Coordinated place marketing approach with Marketing and Comms team
- Identify opportunities to present externally
- Attend, support and actively contribute to GMCA programmes and initiatives
- Identify opportunities for and build a strong network
- Contribute to promotional activities and attend, speak and promote Tameside at events
- GM Visitor Strategy – Marketing Manchester

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Future Funding

- GMCA revenue funding allocated on a quarterly basis (25% match funding requirements)
- GM Investment Zones
- Heritage Lottery Funding opportunities
- GMCA Brownfield Homes Funding
- Engagement with GMCA/Homes England

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Chair of Overview Panel

Chairs of Scrutiny Panels

Councillor Jacqueline North
First Deputy
Finance, Resources and Transformation

Mr Ashley Hughes
Director of Resources
Section 151 Officer

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Date	24 January 2024

Dear Councillor North and Mr Hughes,

Consultation with Scrutiny Panels regarding the 2024/25 Budget

We write in response to the budget consultation meetings held on 15 January 2024, at which Scrutiny members received an overview of the 2023/24 financial outturn and budget planning for 2024/25. In addition to the mid-year budget monitoring information presented to Scrutiny Panels in November 2023, the sessions enable members to seek assurances on the Council's approach to managing and mitigating financial risk and uncertainty.

Thank you for responding directly to the Scrutiny mid-year budget letter and providing a detailed reply to the questions and comments shared in November 2023. We would also like to thank the Chief Executive and Directors for attending the budget meetings; the ongoing work of officers and the Council's Executive during such challenging financial times.

From your response, it is pleasing to hear that the Council will work towards a unified accommodation sufficiency strategy, with the Director of Place leading a partnership approach. This is an area that Scrutiny activity has picked up on regarding significant pressures across accommodation for care leavers, homelessness and victims of domestic abuse. We therefore fully support any steps that will aim to address both current pressures and long-term planning for accommodation and housing options in the borough. Scrutiny would like to remain updated throughout planning, development and delivery phases.

With significant savings to be achieved prior to the close of the 2023/24 financial year, a level of detail and assurance was provided on targeted recovery planning and monthly financial reporting to Executive Cabinet for both revenue and capital. This is further supported with greater detail and monitoring undertaken by Star Chamber on a bi-monthly basis.

The Period 7 forecast outturn showed a revenue overspend of £13.007m, with the most sizeable variance across the Children's, Adults and Place directorates. It was reported that recovery plans have been submitted, with mitigating actions to the effect of £8.734m, resulting in a residual overspend of £4.274m. The concern of members rests upon the ongoing pressures, risks and fragility of current budgets, given that directorates and services are expected to find compensatory ongoing efficiencies to offset any shortfalls.

The Council continues to face challenging and unavoidable decisions year on year, with a statutory responsibility for budget reductions and revenue expenditure to align. It was explained that since 2018/19 a total of £41m in reserves have been used to support the Council's revenue budget, with a further £2m committed as part of the MTFS in 2024/25.

It was noted that there is no planned use of reserves for 2025/26 onwards, however the level of uncertainty and risk remains high and it feels as though this could present a 'no alternative' approach to ensure future agreed financial outturns can be delivered.

While it pays testament to the Council's past financial management, it also presents a significant worry and concern should further budget reductions and external economic pressures continue past 2024/25. This highlights the wider financial challenges faced when taking account of funding streams and ability of the Council to generate income growth above that already achieved.

A single year financial settlement creates added complexity and limits foresight in the Council's ability to budget and plan accordingly. The overall sustainability of future budgets presents as a genuine concern for members. The efforts made to incorporate a total of £12.69m in budget reduction proposals has enabled the Council to put forward a balanced budget for 2024/25 and the collective efforts to achieve this are commended.

This letter provides an account of discussions captured from the meetings and subsequent feedback received, with a request for consideration to the points raised prior to the budget report being finalised.

The local context provided was extremely useful in allowing members to clearly understand the cumulative impacts that sustained budgetary reductions and economic pressures have placed on residents and communities. Over time the Council has had no reasonable options but to proportionately increase the reliance on Council Tax to generate income growth. Members are particularly concerned of a growing financial burden being placed on households at such a challenging time.

It is asked that the Executive remain vigilant and mindful to how difficult decisions can be perceived by the public and it is important to promote and encourage transparent information and communication between the Council, businesses and residents. Not only to highlight the difficult decisions taken locally, but also the impacts and implications should the decisions not be made.

Members recognise that persistent budget reductions have impacted and impeded the Council's ability and ambitions to invest and innovate. The Council has remained prudent and mindful of the financial decisions it makes and the impression this has on service delivery. This has shaped a prolonged period of the Council taking actions to survive rather than thrive. Members appreciate the avoidance and inability to invest in new technology and IT systems, albeit with decisions upcoming to future-proof services and the Council's fleet moving to electric vehicles, as an example.

Discussion touched on in-year monitoring and the deliverability of savings put forward, separate to the unforeseen and unbudgeted pressures placed on statutory services. It is felt that reducing delay and ensuring issues are flagged at the earliest opportunity is key to the success of recovery plans and options relating to shortfalls in delivery.

Improving outcomes for children and vulnerable residents remains a budget pressure. Costly demand is continuing to outstretch resources and consideration is needed as to how services can respond to demand differently, how we support people earlier, achieve better outcomes in permanence planning and develop appropriate pathways of support across all services and sectors. Questions were asked about the financial contribution of partners such as Health, particularly for eligible cases in which the Council faces the full financial burden of commissioning and facilitating specialist care.

Members are mindful that Tameside Children's Services is awaiting a judgement from the recent Ofsted inspection. There is a concern of additional budgetary and workforce pressures should the outcome be unfavourable, with strategic and operational improvement actions that may follow.

Members asked questions on part of the budget that will support and enable investment and regeneration across the borough, including capital projects. This touched upon the Levelling Up programmes, the Council's current position, skills, expertise and capacity within existing teams to deliver this within set timeframes.

Scrutiny priorities remain aligned with the Council's Corporate Plan and members have continued to keep abreast of more strategic measures for the borough in relation to social and economic issues. Future activity will continue to review and support work of the Executive to improve outcomes for residents while at the same time consider the range of efficiency requirements and delivering value for money.

Going forward Scrutiny will look to incorporate the views and lived experiences of residents, service users and patients within future work programming. We will look to monitor and test the ongoing resilience of communities and partnership with the third sector.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Jim Fitzpatrick - Chair of Overview Panel

Councillor Claire Reid - Chair of Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Hugh Roderick - Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Naila Sharif - Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

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Scrutiny Activity 2023/24

The table below provides a summary of Scrutiny activity and oversight carried out during 2023/24. This includes updates to seek assurances on service provision and outcomes.

Table 1: Summary of Scrutiny activity and oversight (March 2023 to March 2024)

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel	Children's Services Scrutiny Panel	Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive Growth – strategy and delivery • Response to LGSCO focus report - More home truths: learning lessons from complaints about the Homelessness Reduction Act, published March 2023 • Neighbourhood Enforcement • Crime and Disorder - GMP Neighbourhood Model and Community Safety Partnership – (Working group established). • Response to LGSCO focus report - Out of Order: learning lessons from complaints about anti-social behaviour, published August 2023 • Response to LGSCO focus report - Not in my back yard – Local people and the planning process, published August 2023 • Scrutiny response to the Draft ASB Policy • Economy, Employment and Skills • Local Plan • Major projects • Budget consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted inspection of Children's Services • SEND Improvement (March 2023 and January 2024) • Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership • Scrutiny summary report – review and monitoring of Children's Services 2021 to 2023 • Support and services for Care Leavers • Children's Social Care Performance and Quality Assurance • Children's Social Care Improvement Plan • Response to LGSCO focus report - Parent Power: learning from complaints about personal budgets, published November 2023. • Children's Services Performance and Quality Assurance Scorecard • Budget consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMICS Update • Primary Care Access • Domestic Abuse - (working group established). • Adult Social Care • Tameside Mental Health Provision (Pennine Care) • Tameside Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board • Elective waiting lists (follow up activity) • Healthwatch Tameside • Budget consultation

Budget Consultation

Scrutiny mid-year budget update received on 6 November 2023. The First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) and Director of Resources received a formal response of the Scrutiny Chairs, capturing a range of points for consideration in supporting the Council's ongoing work in this area. The letter was tabled in a report to the meeting of Overview Panel on 21 November 2023.

Scrutiny Annual Budget meetings held on 15 January 2024. The First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) and Director of Resources received a formal response of the Scrutiny Chairs, capturing a range of points for consideration in supporting the Council's ongoing work in this area. A summary of the activity and letters is tabled in a separate report to the joint meeting of Executive Cabinet and Overview Panel on 14 February 2024.

Consultation and Engagement

Scrutiny will remain suitably informed of open consultations at a local, regional and national level. Each panel will also undertake engagement outside of the formal meetings with Council services and external partners, where necessary.

Following a meeting on 12 September 2023, members of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel received a draft version of the Council's Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Policy, for review and comment. A formal and collective response of the Scrutiny Panel was submitted to Councillor Vimal Choksi, Executive Member (Towns & Communities), on 10 October 2023.

At a meeting of the Community Safety working group on 1 November 2023, members received an updated version of the draft ASB Policy where the comments of Scrutiny had been given full consideration and informed the document.

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO)

Scrutiny Panels continue to review decisions and focus reports published by the ombudsman. The aim is to ensure learning opportunities are shared with services in a timely manner and for a formal response and/or position statement to be returned to the appropriate Scrutiny Panel within agreed timescales.

Scrutiny activity informed by recently published LGSCO focus reports include:

- Focus report – More Home Truths: Learning lessons from complaints about the Homelessness Reduction Act (published March 2023).
 - Report shared with the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity. The report and response was tabled at a meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel on 6 June 2023.
- Focus report – Out of Order: Learning lessons from complaints about anti-social behaviour (published August 2023).
 - Report shared with the Executive Member for Towns & Communities. The report and response was tabled at a meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel on 12 September 2023.
- Focus report – Not in my back yard: Local people and the planning process (published August 2023).
 - Report shared with the Executive Member for Planning, Transport & Connectivity. The report and response was tabled at a meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel on 12 September 2023.
- Focus report – Parent power: Learning from complaints about personal budgets (published November 2023).
 - Report shared with the Executive Member for Education & Achievement. The report and response was tabled at a meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 10 January 2024.

Training and Development

There is an ongoing commitment to ensure all scrutiny members receive a suitable level of training and guidance. In addition to online resources, it is important that new and existing members have access to external provision based on scrutiny principles, national guidance and expectations.

Detail below on training and development sessions delivered during the 2023/24 municipal year.

- **28 November 2023** – Members of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel invited to attend a training session delivered by the LGA and Councillor Paul Watling (Political Peer). The session was on the Effective Scrutiny of Children’s Services. A further two sessions to be held on **6 February 2024** and **11 March 2024**.
- **19 January 2024** - Scrutiny members invited to access an online session delivered by the LGA, titled an Introduction to Scrutiny for Councillors.

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