

Denton Levelling Up Fund

Neighbourhood Forum Update

March 2024

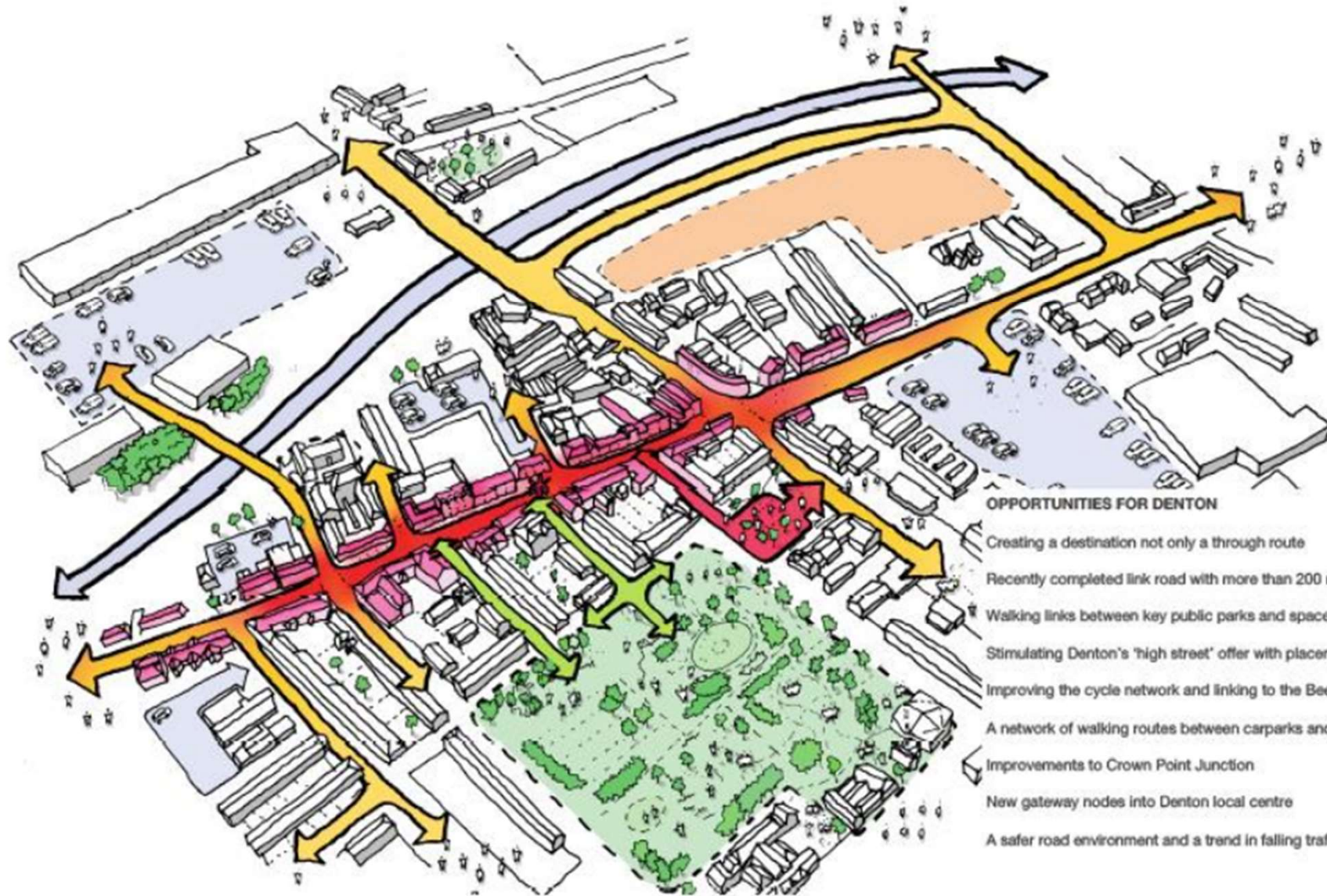


Background

- In November 2023 the Council received notification of the provisional award of £16.8m from the Levelling Up Fund, Round Three for Denton Town Centre.
- Award based on the Council's submission to Round 2 of the Fund in July 2022.
- Original bid focused on public realm and active travel improvements to capture benefits from recent investment for the Town Centre alongside investment at Festival Hall and Denton Town Hall to make best use of the Council's estate.



Concept Plan



Current Status

- The award remains provisional at this stage, subject to project validation, subsidy control checks, and departmental sign-off.
- Since submission of the original bid the potential West Locality Family Hub identified for Festival Hall has been accommodated elsewhere.
- Condition of Festival Hall has also deteriorated further since the 2022 bid.
- A need to revisit the scope of intervention at the Festival Hall site to ensure it provides a long term sustainable future that could result in the site being repurposed for an alternative use
- This would also release some of the funding previously allocated to Festival Hall to wider town centre public realm works helping to address cost inflation since original bid.

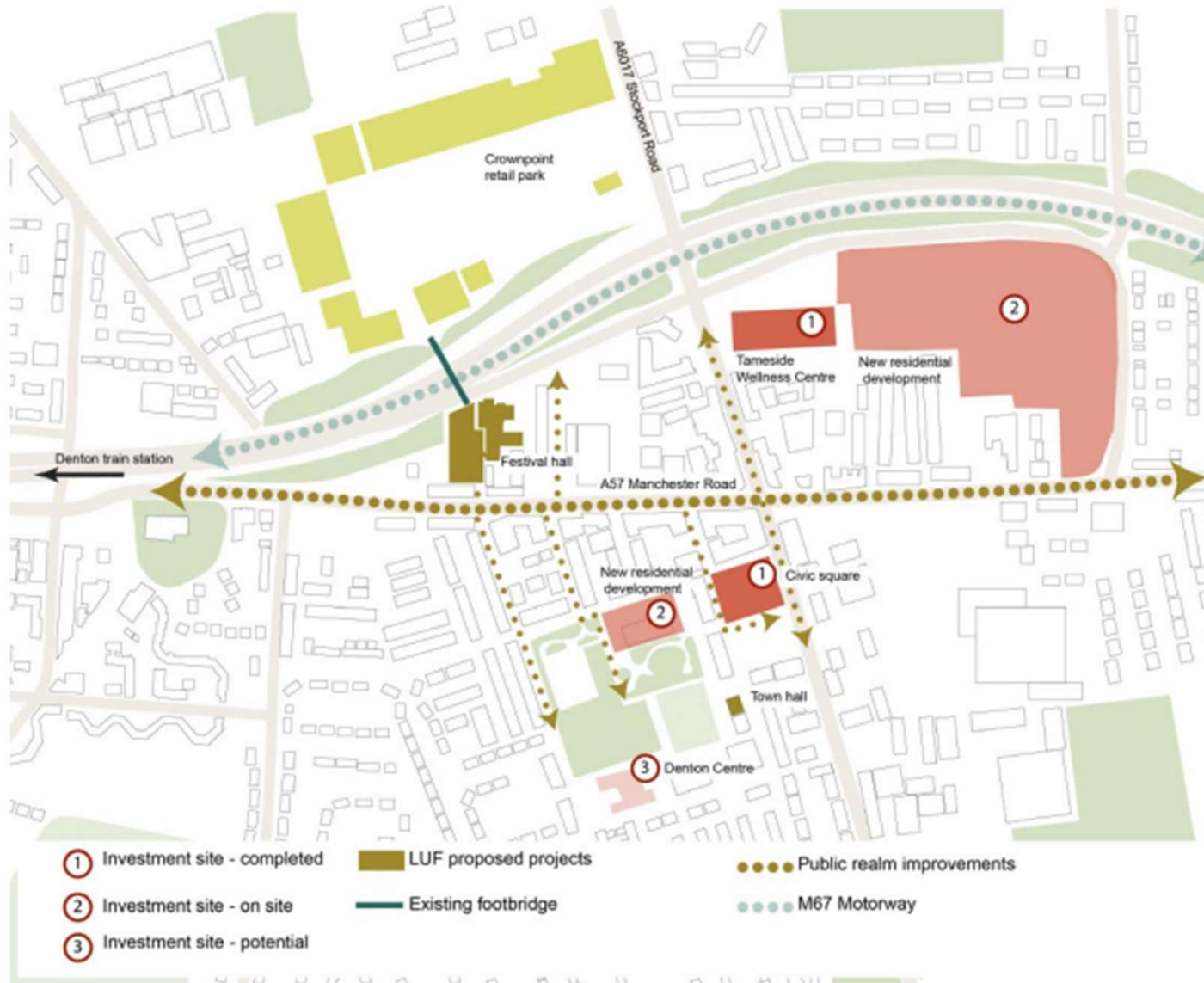


Proposed Interventions

Proposal	Description	Funding £'m
Public realm improvements and A57 Crown Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of public realm improvements, improved pedestrian routes and greenspace enhancements. Support the Denton MCF Crown Point scheme proposals. 	15.2
Festival Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding towards work at the Festival Hall site to provide a long term sustainable future for this location that supports the wider neighbourhood. 	0.8
Denton Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding towards improvements to Denton Town Hall supporting increased use. 	0.8
TOTAL		16.8



LUF Interventions



Next Steps

- Project validation check with Government being finalising to confirm any variation to the original bid concept, Market Subsidy assessment and assessment of deliverability by March 2026.
- On completion of project validation, if successful the Council will need to agree and sign the relevant grant funding documentation.
- Following project validation is confirmed, delivery programme to be prepared as a priority action.
- Initial Festival Hall feasibility study to be prepared.
- Denton Town Hall review of space to optimise community benefits.
- Public realm and movement strategy to identify specific scope of interventions, mindful of lessons from recent schemes in the Borough.