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EXECUTIVE CABINET

Day: Wednesday
Date: 27 September 2023
Time: 1.00 pm
Place: Committee Room 2 - Tameside One

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive any apologies for the meeting from Members of the Executive Cabinet.	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest from Members of Executive Cabinet.	
3.	MINUTES	
a)	EXECUTIVE CABINET The Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 30 August 2023 to be signed by the Chair as a correct record (Minutes attached).	1 - 10
b)	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP To consider the minutes of the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group held on 6 September 2023 (Minutes attached).	11 - 16
4.	PERIOD 4 2023/24 FORECAST OUTTURN – REVENUE AND CAPITAL. To consider a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources.	17 - 34
5.	STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY FRAMEWORK To consider a report of the Executive Leader / Chief Executive.	35 - 38
6.	REVIEW OF EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FORM AND LOCAL PROTECTED GROUPS To consider a report of the Executive Member for Education, Achievement and Equalities.	39 - 62
7.	ADULT SOCIAL CARE MARKET POSITION STATEMENT 2023-2026 To consider a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services.	63 - 116
8.	ADULT SERVICES COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS REPORT 2024/2025	117 - 132

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Carolyn Eaton, Principal Democratic Services Officer, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

To consider a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services.

- 9. HOUSING BENEFIT MODIFIED SCHEME** 133 - 138

To consider a report of the First Deputy for Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services.

- 10. ASHTON PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY** 139 - 288

To consider a report of the Executive Member for Town Centres, Communities / Director of Place.

- 11. HOMES ENGLAND / GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY REVENUE FUNDING** 289 - 308

To consider a report of the First Deputy for Finance, Resources & Transformation / Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment.

- 12. PLACES FOR EVERYONE MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION** 309 - 326

To consider the attached report of the Executive Member (Planning, Transport and Connectivity)/Director of Place.

- 13. ASHTON MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE** 327 - 336

To consider a report of the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment / Director of Place.

- 14. EXEMPT ITEM**

The Proper Officer is of the opinion that during the consideration of the item set out below, the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public and therefore the reports are excluded in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Item	Paragraphs	Justification
Item 13 - Appendix	3&10	This appendix contains exempt information relating to paragraph 3 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) in that it relates to private financial and business affairs of the Council and a series of developers active within the Borough.

- a) ITEM 13 - APPENDIX - ASHTON MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE** 337 - 378

- 15. URGENT ITEMS**

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

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of Executive Cabinet is scheduled to take place on 25 October 2023.

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Carolyn Eaton, Principal Democratic Services Officer, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

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EXECUTIVE CABINET

30 August 2023

Commenced: 1pm

Terminated: 1.20pm

Present: Councillors Cooney (Chair), Choksi, Fairfoull, Feeley, Jackson, Kitchen (ex-officio), North, Sweeton, Taylor, Ward and Wills

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Ashley Hughes	Director of Resources (s151)
Allison Parkinson	Interim Director of Children's Services
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Debbie Watson	Director of Population Health
David Wilcock	Assistant Director, Legal Services (MO)
Ben Middleton	Assistant Director for Strategic Property
Tracey Harrison	Assistant Director for Adult Services
Simon Brunet	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Karen Milner	Service Unit Manager

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

32 EXECUTIVE CABINET MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 26 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

33 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting held on 17 August 2023. Approval was sought of recommendations of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel arising from the meeting.

PERIOD 3 2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Notes the forecast outturn position set out in table 2.
- (ii) Approves the £12.909m reprofiling set out in table 2.
- (iii) Notes the financing position set out in table 3.

CAPITAL PROGRAMMES FOR GROWTH DEPARTMENTS

RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve:

- (i) £19.9m capital funding for Stalybridge Town Centre to be added to the Council's capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 26 April 2023.
- (ii) £0.730m capital funding for UKSPF as agreed with GMCA to be added to the Council's capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 08 February 2023.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (PLACE)

RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Note the progress with regards to the schemes within the Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme as set out in the report.
- (ii) To note and approve the proposed Highways Maintenance programme for 2023 – 2024 as outlined in Appendix 1, subject to confirmation of the 2023/24 Highways maintenance grant.
- (iii) Approve the drawdown of funds for Engineers and Operations and Greenspace in respect of the S106 agreements detailed in Section 3 of this report and add to the council's Capital Programme to allow the detailed design, procurement and installation of the various works.
- (iv) Approve that £0.350m capital funding for UKSPF be added to the Council's capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 08 February 2023.

ADULTS CAPITAL PLAN 2022/2023 AND 2023/2024 UPDATE

RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the progress updates of the Adult Services Capital Programme.

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE

RECOMMENDED

That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to APPROVE:

- (i) The Section 106 contributions totalling £0.101m as detailed in paragraph 2.13 are approved to finance Education Capital Schemes.
- (ii) A joint bid to the Football Foundation for St Thomas More sports pitch as detailed in paragraph 3.8.
- (iii) Additional funding of £0.150m to create extra teaching spaces at Oakdale Primary from the High Needs Provision Fund as detailed in paragraph 5.4.

That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to NOTE:

- (i) The removal of (£0.074m) DFC funding from the capital programme in relation to Academy conversions as detailed in paragraph 2.9.
- (ii) Micklehurst All Saints – Roof Replacement (£0.050m) to be returned to the unallocated School Condition fund as detailed in paragraph 4.14.
- (iii) No further funding to be allocated to Rayner Stephens as detailed in paragraph 3.7.

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE & EARLY HELP CAPITAL Q1 MONITORING REPORT

RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Note the progress as set out in the report and approve the reforecasting of £1.641m of spend on the Boyds Walk project from 2023-24 to 2024-25.
- (ii) Add the capital funding from the Department for Education Family Hubs Grant for financial years 2023-24 (£100,100) and 2024-25 (£69,600) to the capital programme.

35 BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 3

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) /

Director of Resources. The report detailed the forecast outturn as at period 3 of the current financial year. The report reviewed the financial position for the General Fund revenue budget, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Capital budget.

It was reported that the underlying revenue position of £12.264m pressure was an adverse movement of £3.167m from Period 2 (where it was £9.097m) with compensatory management actions to deliver a forecast balanced position. The adverse movement was primarily driven by changes in placement mix, with more high cost placements than budgeted for, in Adults and Children's Services reflecting greater complexity of need in our residents in receipt of care and support.

There was a forecast deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant of £2.540m, driven by High Needs Block costs forecast above the grant resources.

It was highlighted that the capital programme was forecasting an underspend in-year, with subsequent reprofiling of budgets to future years, of £12.193m. This was due to programme rephasing at major projects including Godley Green and Hawthorn's Special School.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet notes:

- (i) The forecast General Fund revenue budget position of an underlying pressure of £12.264m, which is an adverse movement of £3.167m from Period 2 reporting.**
- (ii) The management actions being taken of £12.300m, which will be monitored for delivery and reported back to Cabinet on a regular basis.**
- (iii) That there is a projected overall underspend of £0.036m, following the application of management actions, as outlined in Table 2.**
- (iv) The forecast deficit on the DSG of £2.540m, primarily arising from the High Need Block.**
- (v) The forecast of £12.193m budget reprofiling to future years on the Capital Programme for 2023/24, and that the decision to reprofile the budgets will be recommended to the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel (SPCMP).**

35 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME REVIEW 2023

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services. The report examined the operation of the Council Tax Support Scheme over the period 01 April 2013 to 31 March 2023 and also detailed the procedural requirement to decide if changes were required to the scheme. If any changes were required, then consultation should take place for the scheme to become effective from 01 April 2024.

It was reported that Council Tax Support claimant numbers had reduced, and scheme costs had increased from April 2021. Claimant numbers and costs fluctuated daily however costs increased as the Council Tax level set increases each year. The highest number of claimants were those of working age. The scheme continues to operate as expected. Claimants of pension age continued to be fully protected within the scheme. The scheme in terms of equalities monitoring was operating as expected and this will continue to be monitored every quarter.

Consideration had been given to comparing the scheme with some Greater Manchester and geographically close local authorities, however no direct comparisons could be made as schemes were individual to each local authority and based on the demographic data for that area, and each local authority's budget provision for the scheme. Tameside's scheme had been designed to provide the maximum possible support to residents whilst staying within the budget allocation.

Support would remain in place for all claimants in respect of the Section 13A legislation and Policy and advice available from both the Council and partner agencies remains in place. No Tribunal directions had been received in respect of having to change the scheme and no legislative changes

from DLUHC were expected. The Local Government Ombudsman had not issued any recommendations with regard to Council Tax Support schemes.

In view of the above comparisons and consideration of the scheme operation, the budget allocation and demand, it was proposed that no changes are made to the scheme for 2024/2025 save for the annual uprating of welfare benefit amounts set by central government.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet agree that the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 in principle remains the same scheme as that set effective from April 2023, subject to:

- (i) annual benefit uprating as detailed in the scheme**
- (ii) further guidance which may be issued by Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.**

36 POPULATION HEALTH COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Population Health and Wellbeing / Director of Population Health. The report described population health activity that would take place during 2024-25 thus ensuring effective resource planning. The report set out specific details on areas of spend and commissioning.

It was reported that to improve the testing offer for young men and to better meet the increased demand for STI testing via the digital route within Locala, it was proposed that £0.020m one-off in-year funding was provided to Locala to increase the number of test kits available. This would enable increased access and will also produce more robust data around who is using these kits and what future budget setting should look like. This would be funded within the current Population Health budget, from the in-year underspend in out of area charges via the established GM cross charging arrangements between different local authorities.

Age UK were commissioned to deliver a falls prevention service which forms part of the Tameside Falls Prevention Pathway that supports older people following a fall. The aim was to reduce falls amongst Tameside residents aged 65 and over, to support them to stay at home, in good mental and physical health, and remain independent for as long as possible. This would reduce demand on residential, hospital care and intensive care at home and maximise the quality of life for older people. Performance monitoring had highlighted the value in the work Age UK carry out for our Tameside residents. The contract for this service forms part of a wider Age UK contract led by Tameside Adult Services. The proposal was to work with STAR to seek an exemption to Procurement Standing Orders and issue a direct award to Age UK for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 whilst a review of the falls prevention commissioned programme across community and the acute trust takes place. Population Health contributed £0.036m per annum in funding to commission the Falls Prevention element of the service. The contract was due to expire on 31 March 2024.

Adults Services, as Lead Commissioner, and Population Health were reviewing the arrangements for this contract and working closely with STAR Procurement to undertake an appraisal of the different procurement options available.

Permission was sought to;

- Continue to fund the Falls Prevention service at a cost of £0.036m pa for a further period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- Work with STAR to seek an exemption to issue a Direct Award to Age UK for a duration of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

In 2021/22 Operations and Neighbourhoods coordinated a GM-wide bid to the Home Office via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to introduce a variety of perpetrator programmes, improving the availability of support targeted at perpetrators of domestic abuse. The programmes were

evidence-based and aim to address known issues in relation to domestic abuse offending through a mixture of approaches.

The total amount of grants funding awarded to Tameside, via GMCA, was £0.490m over two years. There had been challenges with the existing Roots programme, and as further expansion was not possible during 2021/2022 the funding was allowed to be carried forward. This gave an opportunity to align the programme objectives to the recently completed perpetrator needs assessment.

It was proposed that some of this funding was used to fund two pilots in Tameside, the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pilot and the Caring Dad's Pilot, for a period of two years at a total cost of £0.290m, see table below for breakdown of cost. The remainder of the grant would be used to support activities specifically linked to the delivery of the recommendations arising from the perpetrator needs assessment.

Discretionary Grant Fund	£0.490 m
Cost of Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pilot	£0.248m
Cost of Caring Dad's Pilot	£0.046 m
TOTAL REMAINING	£0.196 m

All activity would be agreed by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and would be commissioned in line with procurement regulations and in consultation with STAR procurement.

In regards to the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pilot, the original project had faced challenges in relation to the engagement of perpetrators and therefore GMCA had agreed to amend the project allowing Tameside to work with a specialist perpetrator organisation to deliver the pilot

The report sought approval to proceed with the pilot project for a period of two years from 1 September 2023 at cost of:

- £0.094m for the engagement worker (including on costs)
- £0.150m spot purchase of an initial 40 places on the behaviour change programme (enabling a course to be delivered locally)
- £0.004m for training of the homelessness teams (up to maximum of 45 people).

RESOLVED

That the Executive Cabinet approve the following:

- (i) Award a contract variation to provide non recurrent funding in the financial year 2023/2024 of £0.020m to Locala, the provider of specialist Sexual and Reproductive Health services in Tameside, to increase the number of Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) test kits available to Tameside residents.**
- (ii) To extend the current falls prevention programme with Age UK as part of the wider contract held by Adult Services for a further 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 at a cost of £0.036m.**
- (iii) To award a contract to LEAP to deliver the Caring Dad's Pilot for a period of 2 years from 1 September 2023 at a cost of £0.046m.**
- (iv) To award a contract to Talk, Listen, Change (TLC) to deliver a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator pilot for a duration of two years from 1 September 2023 at a cost of £0.248m.**

37 TAMESIDE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2023/26

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families) / Director of Children's Services. The report outlined the establishment of the new Children and Young People's plan that would be overseen by the Starting Well Partnership (Tameside's multi-agency children and young people's partnership).

The Plan set out Tameside's approach across the partnership to working with and to support children and young people and their families. The Plan had been development and agreed by Tameside's Starting Well Partnership.

To help design the framework and agree the priorities behind the strategy a number of sessions had been held with the statutory partners and other stakeholders. These sessions reviewed a variety of datasets and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The partnership also sought views from the voluntary, community and faith sector, using softer intelligence to reach conclusions about where the partnership's focus needed to be.

Through existing networks such as the Children in Care Council and the Youth Parliament, the voice of children and young people was sought, again to inform the development of priorities within the plan.

Key statutory and non-statutory partners had also gained insight from users of their services and ensured that priorities were aligned to those of their organisations to ensure a commitment to this Plan and to ensure resources were available to assist in its delivery.

The Starting Well Partnership, would further develop and drive a delivery plan for the Children and Young People's Plan and the partnership will oversee full implementation. Additionally, a shorter, young person and family focussed guide to the Plan will be developed. The Children's Communications Officer would also develop a communications plan to ensure a wider distribution once it is endorsed.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted and the Plan is endorsed.

38 AUTHORITY'S MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Connectivity / Director of Place. The report sought approval to publish an updated Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) for 2022/23 to satisfy the requirements of Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The AMR monitored implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS), local planning policies, and activities under the duty to cooperate as set out by Section 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012.

This report covered the monitoring period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and data gaps of previous years where this information was available.

In addition, the report sought authority to publish an updated Statement of Community involvement as a result of monitoring processes identifying a need for review. The updated Statement of Community Involvement seeks to be clearer around consultation methods and presents information in plainer English.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet agree:

- (i) to publication of those documents which comprise the 2022/23 AMR as at Appendix 1; and**
- (ii) to publish and bring into immediate effect the updated Statement of Community involvement as at Appendix 2.**

39 UKSPF PEOPLE & SKILLS FUNDING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy for Finance, Resources & Transformation / Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment / Interim Assistant Director for Investment, Development & Housing. The report provided an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) People & Skills funding for Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), with approval being sought to

accept the funding as detailed in this report and outlining the project proposals to achieve the outcomes set by GMCA.

It was explained that the grant would be provided to deliver a hyper place based programme of activities that would support priority groups through key transition groups to:

- Decrease levels of young people identified as at risk of NEET transitioning into NEET,
- Reduce NEET levels for priority groups,
- Reduce the disparity in NEET levels for priority groups against whole age cohort,
- Reduce levels of young people whose situation is not known and increase participation levels of priority groups.

The support provided must include a personal support fund to remove barriers and identified mental health support.

Specific outcomes and outputs had been set by Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and monitoring with evidence would be required to show that they had been achieved. These were set out in the report.

GMCA had advised that the minimum expectation for Tameside was for 258 young people to be engaged with during the lifetime of this project, from September 2023 to 31 March 2025. Whilst the cohort in scope for this support would change in September 2023 when young people decide if they were engaging with the education, employment or training (EET) outcomes initially planned, the current known cohort was as follows:

- 280 NEET (not in education, employment or training)
- 110 'unknown' (not known if NEET or EET)
- 104 care experienced young people

A task group had been formed with officers from Economy, Employment & Skills, Childrens Services (including Leaving Care, SEND and Virtual School) and Population Health to develop the proposal in the short time frame available with advice taken from Director of Childrens Service.

A summary of the proposal was set out in the report and the full proposal submitted to GMCA was attached as Appendix 1.

The grant funding agreement for this element of UKSPF is expected to be provided in mid/late August to all local authorities in Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet approve:

- (i) The acceptance of a grant totalling £0.618m from the GMCA as part of the UKSPF funding to support Young People considered as NEET, of which:**
 - £0.490m will support the delivery of the proposed programme of work from September 2023 – August 2025.**
 - £0.128m will support the recruitment and retention of additional resource to manage the programme.**
- (ii) The delivery of a cross Directorate project that will achieve the outcomes set by GMCA, in accordance with the grant conditions, and provide positive progression for young people in the Borough.**

EXEMPT ITEM

40

RESOLVED

That under Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that:

- (i) they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 7&9 of Schedule 12A of the act specified below; and
- (ii) in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for reasons specified below:

Item	Paragraphs	Justification
Item 11	7&9	This report contains exempt information relating to paragraph 7 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) in that it relates to private financial and business affairs of the Council and a series of residential developers active within the Borough.

41 DISPOSAL - FORMER LIBRARY, UNION STREET, HYDE, SK14 1AL

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Assistant Director for Strategic Property. The report provided an update in respect of the former Hyde Library following a previous report considered by Executive Cabinet on 23 March 2022 and agree a way forward.

The former Hyde Library property (as shown edged red in **Appendix 1**) was included in a second batch of assets that were declared surplus by Executive Cabinet on 29 September 2021. Following on from this, Executive Cabinet approved a marketing strategy in accordance with the Council's disposal policy, on 23 March 2022.

It was agreed that the Council would progress to market the subject site immediately via informal tender, using the services of a specialist agent. Marketing commenced on 28 June 2022 using the services of Knight Frank.

Marketing continued with the Council requesting sealed bids to be submitted to the Authority prior to 12.00pm noon on 18 August 2022. The marketing period resulted in the Council receiving a total of 13 offers, however after lengthy consideration and undertaking due diligence on a number of proposals, which would have required the Council indemnifying voids or future loses - none of the offers received were acceptable, either in financial terms, acceptable uses or deliverability. We would now instruct Frank Knight to advise all the bidders of the same

It was therefore proposed that the previously circulated planning brief be amended and updated to seek a retention of the existing library building if possible, including giving consideration to a new development behind the existing façade, with any replacement building needing to reflect the character and quality of the existing building. The preference would be for the site to be redeveloped to support the construction of larger, family town houses to suit the needs of the local community. Previous bidders would be offered the opportunity to re-bid for the site in accordance with the updated planning brief.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet:

- (i) Note the update provided following on from a previous report considered by Executive Cabinet on 23 March 2022.
- (ii) Agree that Place will re-market the site with an updated planning brief setting out the Council's preference for:
 - (a) retention of the former Library building where possible and/or any replacement reflecting the character and quality of the existing building;
 - (b) a residential scheme including larger, family townhouses serving the needs of the local community.

- (iii) That Frank Knight are instructed to advise all the previous bidders of the position and offer them the opportunity to re-bid for the site in accordance with the updated planning brief.

42 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR

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ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

6 September 2023

Commenced: 4.30pm

Terminated: 6.10pm

Present: Councillors Naylor (Chair), Axford, Boyle, Ferguson, Jones, Mills and Pearce

In Attendance:

Ben Middleton	Assistant Director, Strategic Property
Graham Holland	Planning Policy Team Manager
Nicky Marshall	Greenspace Development Manager
Jo Oliver	Head of Waste Management and Fleet Services
Luke Mirfin	Market Events and Communications Manager
Christina Morton	Environmental Development Officer
Richard Hooton	Senior Communications Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillor S Homer

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group held on 14 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

12. GREATER MANCHESTER GREEN CITY REGION UPDATE

The Chair, Councillor Naylor, gave a verbal update in respect of the August meeting of the Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership. Members were informed that:

- There had been focus on the terms of reference and review of the Five Year Plan;
- Retrofitting of Greater Manchester's public transport fleet continued at pace and 95 percent of the fleet were now meeting the required standard;
- A presentation was provided by the Swift and House Martin Group, outlining the threat to the species from house building practices and insulation. The Chair would request information from the organisation relating to Tameside so that this could be shared with officers.

13. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The panel received an update from the Assistant Director, Strategic Property in relation to the Council's Climate and Environment Action Plan. The five priority areas of the Action Plan were greenspace & biodiversity; homes, workspace & council buildings; influencing others; reducing consumption & procuring sustainably; and travel & transport.

Members were informed that the Strategy and accompanying Action Plan was adopted in 2021 and took its lead from the Greater Manchester Five Year Environmental Plan.

Each priority area, along with how each would be achieved, was detailed and a RAG rating had been provided indicating the level of progress against each area. Those areas rated as red were experiencing delays in being completed and colleagues had identified the barriers to completion.

Areas coloured in amber faced delays but were being managed and green areas showed those which had been completed. It was explained that the document was a working one and actions would be both removed and added as time progressed.

A number of the actions were achievable now whilst some were aspirations for the longer term.

RESOLVED

That the content of the update be noted.

14. CARBON LITERACY TRAINING UPDATE

The Environmental Development Officer provided an update in relation to carbon literacy training. The mandatory course had been uploaded to My Learning for all Tameside staff to complete by the end of December 2023.

Members were informed that the course was designed to assist all colleagues in gaining an understanding of the challenge faced and how our everyday actions could affect the climate. The course would provide an awareness and starting point to making real change in the way we all tackled the climate emergency and covered everything from an overview of the causes of climate change to looking how climate change would affect us all locally, nationally and globally.

It was then highlighted that the course went onto provide information about what was being done across Greater Manchester. This started with the Greater Manchester Five Year Environmental Action Plan at a GMCA level, down to the Climate Change and Environment Strategy and Action Plan at a Tameside level. Details of Tameside's role would be provided, including what had been delivered so far and what still needed to be done.

The 'What Can You Do?' section of the training examined the carbon footprint of a number of key areas such as transport, waste and energy, to provide a clearer picture of how our everyday behaviour used carbon and contributed to the challenge of climate change. A number of solutions and areas to consider were then provided to help us reduce our carbon footprints.

Each section of the course had a knowledge check to test understanding and ensure clarity of learning.

Whilst the training and knowledge checks were designed to be introductory, it was important that all staff had a greater understanding of how their actions could have an impact on climate change and the environment.

A discussion ensued regarding expanding the training course to both Members and partner organisations. The Environmental Development Manager advised that there was the potential for the training to be adapted and the Chair was keen that all Members had to access to the training module.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

15. WASTE / GREENING THE FLEET UPDATE

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Head of Waste Management and Fleet Services providing an update on waste and greening the fleet.

Members were informed of a number of updates in relation to government policy, including extended producer responsibility for packing waste, the deposit return scheme and waste and recycling collection consistency.

In relation to extended producer responsibility, it was explained that packaging producers would be charged according to the amount of packaging material they placed on the market. This would generate a fund that would be allocated to local authorities. Local authorities would receive financial support for collection, recycling, treatment, and disposal of packaging with payments being based on modelled costs. It was expected that basis payments would begin in Spring 2024 and had previously been delayed due to the cost of living crisis and pressure from industry.

Government was seeking agreement on a nationwide deposit return scheme following delays to the Scottish scheme earlier this year. Agreement was sought on which materials would be covered. Whilst local authorities had expressed some concern regarding the scheme, as they were able to generate income from high quality recycled material, Members welcomed the proposed introduction as a means to reduce litter on the borough's streets.

To date, the Council had not been provided with any further information regarding the consistency of collections, including frequency, items to be collected, weekly volumes and weekly food waste collections. The scheme was politically contentious but was needed to improved recycling rates. A consultation was also taking place on the removal of bulky waste charges in 2025.

Details of the borough's bio-waste tonnages were provided to the group and it was explained that there was a spike the week commencing 15 May following the King's Coronation bank holiday due to an increase in individuals undertaking gardening over the long weekend. Bio-waste rounds were also stood down during the bank holiday weekend to allow waste staff the opportunity to enjoy the festivities.

The Council had stopped providing caddy liners to residents in early July and any remaining stocks were currently available from the borough's libraries. Members were pleased to note that bio-waste tonnages had not decreased since the ceasing of free caddy liners.

A summary of complaints data relating to Waste Services was provided and it was explained that overall there had been a significant decrease in complaints, though there had been a slight increase to 24 complaints in August. It was explained that this coincided with bio-waste rounds being stood down due to issues with staff absence in August. Waste Services would work with HR to address this issue. Overall, the service undertook approximately 11 million collections per year.

Greening the fleet remained a key priority of the Council and it was advised that the authority had 146 vehicles or plant items, ranging from dumper trucks to mowers. This represented a reduction of a third from 2011.

The Council had approved a Seven Year Fleet Replacement Strategy in 2022 and approval was currently being sought to procure three replacement electric vans along with 23 other vehicles/plant. It was highlighted that options for other vehicles such as waste collection vehicles were limited, as they required significant investment in charging or alternative fuel provision. Vehicle prices had also risen significantly in recent times due to inflation, supply chain issues and the covid-19 pandemic legacy.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

16. SINGLE USE PLASTICS BAN

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Markets Events and Communication Manager outlining the implications of a ban on single use plastics in the borough's markets.

Members were informed that currently it was estimated that England used 2.7 billion items of single use cutlery each year, and 721 million single-use plastic plates. Disappointingly, only 10 percent of these items were currently recycled.

From the 1 October 2023, the government had announced that it would be extending the ban on single use plastics, following a ban already in place on plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds. Items covered under the ban included single use plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers. The ban also covered single use plastic items that were biodegradable, compostable and recycled including items wholly or partly made from plastic including a coating or lining.

Any business that continued to supply banned single-use plastic items following the introduction of the legislation in October could be liable to a fine.

Details of the impact upon businesses in the markets were outlined to the group:

- Swapping plastic for bamboo or wooden cutlery for takeaway food;
- Swapping plastic for metal cutlery for in-house guests;
- Swapping single use plastic plates or bowls for re-usable alternatives that could be washed;
- Offering paper plates instead of plastic;
- Offering to refill customers' water bottles or travel cups; and
- Encouraging customers to bring their own clean containers for takeaway food.

To ensure that market traders were able to adapt to the changes, details of the new legislation had been announced in January, which had given businesses time to plan, prepare and make changes. Suppliers had been active in contacting businesses and assisting with plastic free alternatives. In addition, there had been regular newsletter updates, promotional display materials and work with key services, including Trading Standards.

Whilst prices for plastic free alternatives were often higher, it was anticipated that once the ban was introduced that prices of these items would start to fall.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

17. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Greenspace Development Manager and Planning Policy Manager providing details in relation to biodiversity net gain.

Members were informed that the Environment Act 2021 legislated for mandatory net gains for biodiversity as a requirement of most new development consented to by a local planning authority. It was explained that biodiversity net gain was a significant part of the government's objective to improve the environment for future generations as endorsed by the 25 Year Environmental Plan. The intention was that it would contribute to the recovery of nature whilst developing land.

The net gain requirement applied from November 2023 for development under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, unless they were exempt, and to small sites from April 2024. The Council, as the local planning authority would be required to approve a biodiversity net gain plan, where this formed a requirement of an application for planning permission to ensure that a net gain would be achieved. Consultation would be undertaken the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) who provided specialist ecological advice.

Details of the requirements of biodiversity net gain for developers were highlighted to Members. Developers would be required to avoid the loss of habitats in the first instance and that net gain

should first be delivered on the development site itself, through avoidance, minimising loss, and seeking restoration of what already existed. In circumstances where this could not be achieved, a habitat had to be created either on-site or off-site.

In cases where gains had to be made off-site, the land either had to be within the developer's direct control or where a biodiversity unit had been bought from a third part land manager. Developers would be able to choose how to source off-site credits and there would be an open market for biodiversity credits with developers able to choose whom they wished to achieve their off-site credit with. Members were informed that there was expected to be significant demand for off-site credits.

It was highlighted that those units created closer to a development site would be weighted more favourably than those further away or of a lesser ecological priority. This would in effect incentivise a developer to shop closer to home when looking for off-site credits.

The Greenspace Development Manager explained the implications of biodiversity net gain for Council-owned greenspace. Tameside owned and managed a portfolio of greenspace sites with a diverse range of habitats and maintained these areas within the resources available through Operations and Greenspace staff and with the assistance of Greenspace volunteers.

Whilst the management of these sites was acceptable, and in some cases good, it was advised that resources did not allow the Council to enhance these habitats to their full potential. Consequently, biodiversity net gain presented a greater opportunity to receive external funding to enhance biodiversity standards on the land it owned. It was hoped that this would not only enhance Council sites but also assist in meeting its targets around sustainability and achieving net zero.

Land available for enhancement would remain in Council ownership and there would be a contract in place that committed the Council and its partners to carry out the enhancement work and then maintain the site for 30 years to the relevant standard as part of the Management Plan. Therefore, the Council had to carefully consider the land where it made units available for sale as once land was part of a biodiversity net gain agreement, it would not be available for sale or commercial/residential development for 30 years.

A discussion ensued regarding the Council purchasing land in the borough for biodiversity enhancement. The Greenspace Development Manager explained that this would present too great a financial risk for the Council. Members also queried if there was the potential to plant community orchards in each ward but it was advised this was outside the scope of what could be delivered through biodiversity net gain. The Greenspace Development Manager would have further discussions with Members outside of the meeting in relation to the proposals.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

18. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMUNICATIONS QUARTERLY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Senior Communications Officer outlining the Environment and Climate Emergency communication's strategy.

Members were informed that a one-stop webpage called 'Think Green' had been launched by the Council. The webpage brought together all elements of the Council's aim to tackle climate change, tips on being more environmentally friendly and access to information on public transport, walking & cycling and parks & countryside. Information on making homes more energy efficient was also available. The Communications Officer highlighted that between 1 June and 15 August, the Think Green webpage had been visited 1,589 times, with recycling the most visited page.

It was explained that there was a monthly focus on particular topics including Let It Bloom in June; Save Money, Save the Planet in July; and Get into the Garden in August. Each of these topics had

been promoted through Facebook and Twitter posts, and details of the posts and their reach were included for Members.

Media coverage continued to form an important part of the Council's communications' strategy. The Tameside Arts Awards had been featured in the Tameside Reporter and Tameside Correspondent as had work to introduce recyclable materials at the borough's markets and Active Tameside venues.

In addition to local campaigns, Communications had also been promoting national events including Love Parks Week between 28 July and 6 August and National Allotments Week between 7 and 13 August. Love Parks Week had received substantial coverage on the Council's social media channels. Specific day events had also taken place, such as World Environment Day on 5 June and National Re-fill Day on 16 June.

Communications for staff and partner organisations were also important and information could be accessed through email signatures, the Chief Executive's Weekly Brief, LiveWire Magazine and staff portal. Partners could access information through Community Champions, the Leader's Weekly Brief and Communications Network.

A summary of upcoming themes was outlined to the Group and Members were urged to contact the Communication's Team with any items that would generate good publicity for the Think Green campaign.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

19. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group was scheduled to take place on 15 November 2023.

CHAIR

Agenda Item 4

Report To:	CABINET
Date:	5 September 2023
Executive Member / Reporting Officer:	Cllr Jacqueline North –First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) Ashley Hughes – Director of Resources
Subject:	Period 4 2023/24 Forecast Outturn – Revenue and Capital.
Report Summary:	<p>This is the Period 4 monitoring report for the current financial year, showing the forecast outturn position.</p> <p>The report reviews the financial position for the General Fund revenue budget, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Capital budget.</p> <p>The underlying revenue position is £11.674m at Period 4, this is a favourable movement of £0.590m from Period 3 (where it was £12.264m). Compensatory management actions have been put in place to deliver a forecast balanced position. The favourable movement is primarily driven by forecast reductions in external residential placements in Children’s Social Care.</p> <p>There is a forecast deficit on the DSG of £2.540m, driven by High Needs Block costs forecast above the grant resources.</p> <p>The Capital programme is forecasting an underspend in-year, with subsequent reprofiling of budgets to future years, of £12.909m. This is due to programme rephasing at major projects including Godley Green and Hawthorn’s Special School.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>That Executive Cabinet APPROVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The proposed contingency budget virements as part of routine financial management.<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Street lighting energy costs, £0.782m. As a result of national energy cost rises.ii. Business rates on Council assets, £0.099m. Following the national 2023 Business rates revaluation the rateable values of Council’s buildings increased from the 1 April 2023.2) The acceptance of additional workforce market sustainability and improvement fund grant funding of £1.755m from the Department of Health and Social Care that was announced on 28 July 2023. The funding is to be allocated to the Adult Services 2023/24 revenue budget in accordance with the grant conditions. The supporting proposals on use of the grant award will be included in a subsequent report for approval.3) The acceptance of additional Disabled Facilities Grant capital funding of £0.249m from the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities that was announced on 7 September 2023. The capital funding is to be allocated to the Adult Services 2023/24 capital programme and will be reflected at Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring

Panel.

- 4) The acceptance of the Youth Justice Grant 2023/24 of £0.586m to contribute to the functions of the Youth Justice Service, including both prevention services to reduce offending and activity to support young people going through the Youth Justice system. The grant allocation is higher than was budgeted in the 2023/24 budget by £0.123m, reducing the forecasted use of General Fund resources, which will be reflected in the forecasts within the Period 5 budget monitoring as a favourable variance movement in Children's Services. The Funding letter is set out at **appendix 1** together with the grant agreement (**appendix 2**)

That Executive Cabinet NOTES:

- 5) The forecast General Fund revenue budget position of an underlying pressure of £11.674m, which is a favourable movement of £0.590m from Period 3 reporting.
- 6) The management actions being taken of £11.710m, which have been monitored for delivery, are currently on track, and will be reported back to Cabinet on a regular basis.
- 7) That there is a projected overall underspend of £0.036m, following the application of management actions, as outlined in Table 2.
- 8) The forecast deficit on the DSG of £2.540m, primarily arising from the High Need Block.
- 9) The Capital programme position of projected spend of £46.321m, following Cabinet approval to reprofile project spend of £12.909m to 2024/25.

Policy Implications:

Full Council set the approved budgets in February 2023. Budget virements from Contingency to service areas is not effecting a change to the budgets set by Full Council.

Financial Implications:

As contained within the report.

(Authorised by the Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)

Legal Implications:

(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

The Local Government Act 1972 (Sec 151) states that "every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs..."

Revenue monitoring is an essential part of these arrangements to provide Members with the opportunity to understand and probe the Council's financial position.

Members will note that the underlying outturn position is a net deficit of £11.674m on Council budgets. As the council has a legal duty to deliver a balanced budget by the end of each financial year Members need to be content that there is a robust Medium Term plan in place to ensure that the council's longer term financial position will be balanced. Ultimately, failure to deliver a balanced budget can result in intervention by the Secretary of State.

The council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that it operates with sufficient reserves in place. The legislation does not stipulate what that level should be, rather that it is the responsibility of the

council's 151 officer to review the level of reserves and confirm that the level is sufficient. Reserves by their very nature are finite and so should only be drawn down after very careful consideration as the reserves are unlikely to be increased in the short to medium term.

Risk Management:

Associated details are specified within the report.

Failure to properly manage and monitor the Council's budgets will lead to service failure and a loss of public confidence. Expenditure in excess of budgeted resources is likely to result in a call on Council reserves, which will reduce the resources available for future investment. The use and reliance on one off measures to balance the budget is not sustainable and makes it more difficult in future years to recover the budget position.

Background Papers:

Background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Gemma McNamara, Interim Assistant Director of Finance (Deputy 151 Officer):

 e-mail: gemma.mcnamara@tameside.gov.uk

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's forecast financial position across the General Fund revenue budget, DSG and Capital Programme as at July 2023.
- 1.2 It shows the Council's budgets, forecast outturn positions and underlying variances. At period 4 a risk based approach has been taken and the Council has focused on areas of high risk and high demand and volatility. The report also identifies the management actions being taken to offset adverse variances.
- 1.3 Overall, there are significant expenditure pressures and risk of £11.674m on the underlying position within the General Fund. In order to mitigate this, Officers have put in place management actions of £11.710m to mitigate this overspend and maintain the position within the agreed budget, and these actions are reviewed with every budget monitoring report to confirm they remain on track.
- 1.4 A £2.540m overspend is forecast on the DSG fund, for which the work on the Delivering Better Value (DBV) project is targeted at. The DBV project is in the final stages of consideration with the Department for Education (DfE) for a revenue grant to support the deliverables agreed between the Council and the DfE.
- 1.5 The Capital budget has forecast budgets of £12.909m to be reprofiled to future years in 2023/24, this does not affect the overall programme budget which is still forecast to break-even.
- 1.6 At the time of drafting this report, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation was running at 6.8%, a reduction of 1.1% since June 2023. The Bank of England have responded to the inflationary environment with a strong monetary policy decision and announced on the 3rd August 2023 an increase to the base rate of interest by 25 basis points taking the rate to 5.25%. The Bank of England have increased the base rate 14 consecutive times since December 2021 with the aim of controlling inflation. There are economic forecasts now considering, that to control inflation and return it to the Government target of 2%, the base rate of interest will rise to at least 6% in the calendar year for 2023. Although the rate of inflation has decreased, cost of living pressures remain significant and will continue to impact on both the costs of, and demand for, Council Services for the foreseeable future.
- 1.7 Members should be aware of the wider impact the macroeconomic environment is having in Local Government. Multiple local authorities have warned of pressures adversely impacting on their financial sustainability, despite the welcome increase in funding received in the Local Government Finance Settlement for this financial year. A lack of multi-year funding settlements and the sustained high level of inflation has severely impacted the level of underlying risk in the Council's financial position and made planning for the future more difficult due to the increased uncertainty around available funding.
- 1.8 Whilst the Council is not in a poor financial position in terms of its balance sheet at this point in time, and section 5 on reserves demonstrates this, it is clear that ongoing cost pressures make delivering the 2023/24 budget, and the future Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), a difficult task. The addition of Star Chambers will support the delivery of budget reductions in 2022/23 through the continuous oversight and "critical friend" challenge nature in which they operate. However, without a "One Council" approach and a clear rationale around reserves being used to support transformation, change and a sustainably lower expenditure budget, Members will be asked to make more-and-more difficult decisions over the medium-term regarding service provision and levels of income generated locally.
- 1.9 Any decision to use reserves, above those approved at Budget Council, would require Section 151 Officer approval. Reserves should not be an alternative to undelivered budget reductions. The Section 151 Officer is of the view that, as at Period 04 reporting, additional use of reserves

is not necessary to support the revenue budget, subject to the identified management actions taking full effect in 2023/24.

- 1.10 Executive Cabinet should note that in future reporting the consideration in paragraph 1.9 may change as management actions are confirmed as on-track or not, and needs arise around managing the leisure estate following the decision by Active Tameside to close 3 sites, and responding to wholly unforeseen items of expenditure that cannot be constrained within the contingency budget envelope in 2023/24.

2. FORECAST 2023/24 REVENUE OUTTURN POSITION AT MONTH 4

- 2.1 The underlying Month 4 adverse variance is £11.674m, which represents a favourable movement on the month 3 underlying position of £12.264m.
- 2.2 As a result of the improvement to the underlying position, mitigating actions have been delivered reducing the overall mitigating actions required to £11.710m (previously were £12.300m in month 3). The overall month 4 projected net underspend remains at £0.036m.
- 2.3 Table 1 overleaf gives a breakdown of the position for each Directorate showing both the underlying risks and management actions, leading to the reported position and shown against the month 3 position.

Table 1: Month 4 forecast monitoring position

Forecast Position	Revenue Budget	Month 4 Forecast	Underlying Variance	Management Action	Net Variance	Net Variance Month 3	Change in Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adults	41.574	44.546	2.973	(2.973)	(0.000)	0.017	(0.017)
Children's Social Care	55.491	59.730	4.239	(3.939)	0.300	0.300	0.000
Education	8.743	9.538	0.795	(0.550)	0.245	0.245	0.000
Schools	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Population Health	14.320	14.232	(0.088)	0.000	(0.088)	(0.100)	0.012
Place	28.683	33.548	4.865	(4.098)	0.767	0.731	0.036
Quality and Safeguarding	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Governance	13.554	13.817	0.262	(0.150)	0.112	0.095	0.017
Resources	58.986	57.613	(1.373)	0.000	(1.373)	(1.324)	(0.049)
Totals	221.397	233.071	11.674	(11.710)	(0.036)	(0.036)	0.000

- 2.4 To provide further detail to the table above, the following table shows the movement in the underlying position for month 4 compared to month 3, which is then described in more detail for each Directorate in sections following the table.

Table 2: Month 4 movement in underlying position

Forecast Position	Revenue Budget	Month 4 Forecast	Month 4 Underlying Variance	Month 3 Underlying Variance	Change in Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adults	41.574	44.546	2.973	2.850	0.123

Children's Social Care	55.491	59.730	4.239	4.741	(0.502)
Education	8.743	9.538	0.795	0.795	0.000
Schools	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Population Health	14.320	14.232	(0.088)	(0.100)	0.012
Place	28.683	33.548	4.865	5.057	(0.192)
Quality and Safeguarding	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.000
Governance	13.554	13.817	0.262	0.245	0.017
Resources	58.986	57.613	(1.373)	(1.324)	(0.049)
Totals	221.397	233.071	11.674	12.264	(0.590)

Adults Services – Underlying overspend of £2.973m, adverse movement of £0.123m

- 2.5 The Adults Services Directorate has a forecast overspend against budget in 2023/24 of £2.973m, which is an adverse movement of £0.123m on the underlying forecast from period 3.
- 2.6 Across each monthly reporting on the budget, residential and nursing placements have been identified as a key cost driver of forecasted overspends before management actions. There is a net forecast increase of £0.419m placement costs since period 3, despite activity showing a slight reduction in service user numbers from 919 to 901 in placement. Cost increases where numbers decrease is linked to price changes. As the care fees are set already for 2023/24, the only reason for cost increases is due to changes in complexity driving up costs in a market struggling with sufficiency issues nationally. The service is considering the use of short-stay placements, normally more intensive as part of reablement and maximising independence, for reviewing at the 6-8 week mark to determine if they are longer term (and the support provided is to be less intense in nature) as part of their ongoing work to provide the right care at the right time and manage the budget effectively.
- 2.7 In addition, there are forecast reductions of service user contributions to home care / support at home care packages of £0.153m and to day care packages of £0.073m when compared to the income budgets. This can happen as service users' abilities to pay are financially assessed annually, and if their circumstances worsen, their contribution levels will subsequently reduce upon assessment. Analysis is being carried out monthly and further updates will be provided in future reporting.
- 2.8 The forecast adverse variance changes between periods of £0.645m are reduced by additional income of £0.278m above that forecasted for community equipment from Derbyshire County Council, with agreed amounts being £0.452m and a forecasted position of £0.174m reported in previous monitoring periods.
- 2.9 The forecast cost of direct payments to service users who arrange their own providers for care and support has also reduced by £0.268m since period 3. In addition, discharge to assess (D2A) arrangements were revised in early August to ensure robust care assessment procedures were in place at the hospital prior to patient discharge to a community based setting. Care assessment had previously been carried out post discharge from hospital in some instances. This will avoid the future cost of care home placements for a short term period (that has been previously financed by the Council on discharge) until the service user has been assessed whilst in a hospital based setting. Further analysis is being undertaken to quantify the impact of the changes and these will be included in Period 5 reporting.
- 2.10 Home Care and Support at Home costs remain an ongoing budget pressure. This is due to a 10% forecast increase in the hours provided per week compared to the budgeted allocation at period 4. The budget assumed an average number of 10,600 hours per week, however the current number of hours per week is 11,630, which has been projected for the remainder

of the year. This is a 6 % increase on the monthly average number of hours provided per week in 2022/23 (10,940). One of the mitigating actions to reduce the forecast budget pressure is a review of the hours delivered in home care / support at home packages. A 5% reduction in the weekly hours delivered from 1 September 2023 is included in the period 4 forecast (£0.360m).

- 2.11 Since the period 3 monitoring report, the Council has been awarded additional workforce market sustainability and improvement fund grant funding of £1.755m from the Department of Health and Social Care. This grant award was announced on 28 July 2023 and is additional to the £2.702m market sustainability and improvement fund allocated to the 2023/24 Adults directorate budget and approved in the Council budget report at full Council on 28 February 2023.
- 2.12 The grant funding is to be allocated to the 2023/24 Adult Social Care revenue budget in accordance with the related grant conditions. These state that the funding is to be utilised to deliver improvements in at least one of the following;
- increasing fee rates paid to adult social care providers in local areas
 - increasing adult social care workforce capacity and retention
 - reducing adult social care waiting times

Work is underway on supporting proposals in accordance with the grant conditions, the details of which will be included in a subsequent report for approval.

Children's Services – Social Care – Underlying overspend £4.239m, positive movement of £0.502m

- 2.13 The overall position on Children's services is an underlying variance of £4.239m, which is a favourable movement on the month 3 position of £0.502m. This improvement in the underlying position is as a result of a reduction in two residential placements. This pressure is then mitigated by management actions of £3.939m, resulting in a net adverse variance of £0.300m, a nil movement from the month 3 reported position. The forecast overspend is driven by external placements for Cared for Children. This relates both to the overall number and the increasing cost of each placement with external residential placement numbers currently at 75, compared to 66 at the start of the financial year and 77 last month. The forecast is conservative in assumptions around length of stay per placement by young person, and the service is undertaking a more focused review of placements beginning with a Pareto approach looking at the top 20% in cost to determine if there is a potential to support the young person into a lower cost alternative over a period of time. In addition, the average weekly cost of placements is currently £6,060, compared to £5,541 at the same point last year, representing an increase of 9%. This is on top of the Newton Europe report to the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) that highlighted Children's Placements increased in costs by over 60% in the previous 3 years and there is a national sufficiency shortage of appropriate placements to meet complex and/or escalating need.
- 2.14 Table 3 overleaf shows that whilst 15 over 18's have had their Semi Independent placement ceased, this has been offset by 16 additional placements in the 16-17 age range. This also shows that the growth in Independent Foster Placements has been in Under 10's, and that external residential placements have fallen slightly in 16-17 year olds, but risen by 10 in 5-15 year olds.

Table 3: Age Profile of External Placements

Age Profile	Semi Independent		Independent Foster Placement		External Residential Homes	
	Apr-23	Aug-23	Apr-23	Aug-23	Apr-23	Aug-23
0 to 2	0	0	1	4	0	0
3 to 4	0	0	3	7	0	0
5 to 10	0	0	47	51	4	6
11 to 15	0	0	64	65	40	48
16 to 17	28	44	23	23	23	21
18+	33	18	1	0	0	0
	61	62	139	150	67	75

2.15 Graph 1 shows that while overall Cared for Children numbers are trending downwards, with an increase in July and the number of external residential placements has risen sharply this calendar year, after a period of falling numbers, leading to a greater proportion of the total client base being in residential placements. As the table shows, this proportion has increased from 8.09% in December 2022 to 11.36% in July 2023. External residential placements are forecast to overspend by £4.487m, a decrease of £0.456m from period 3. This is due to a reduction in numbers of 2 following step-downs, one due to a £2k reduction in weekly placement cost and another from a £14k per week home to an in house fostering placement. These step-downs formed part of the management actions identified in period 3.

Graph 1: Total Cared for Children and Children in External Residential Placements

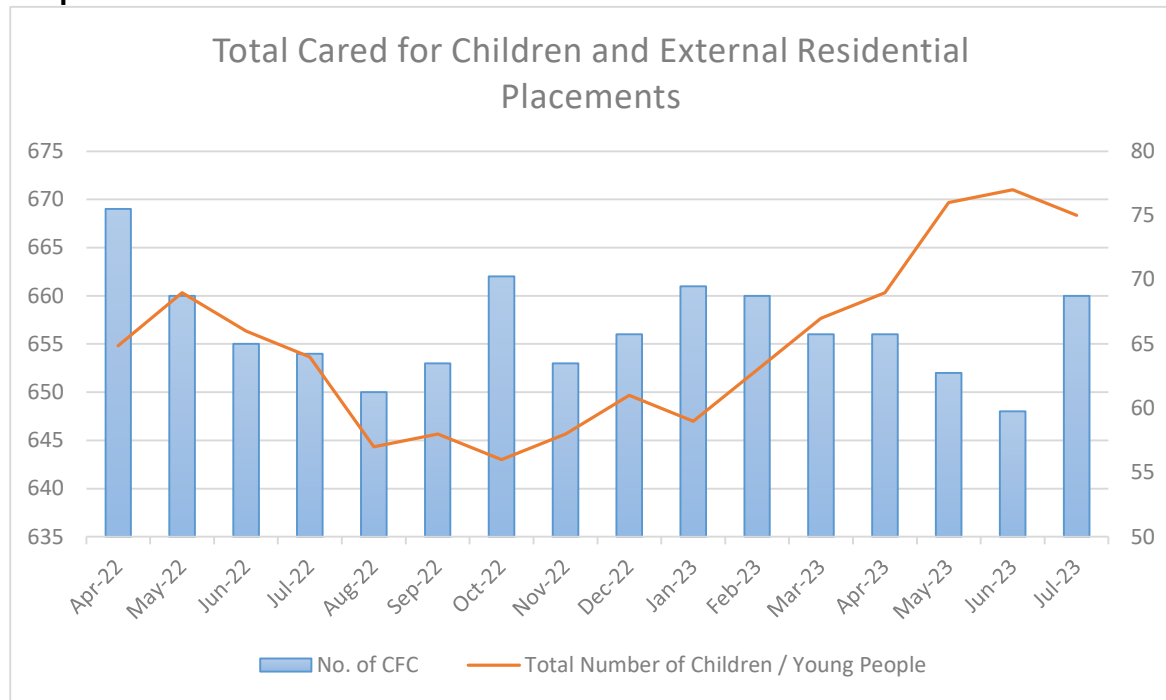


Table 4: External Residential Placements as Percentage of Cared For Children

Month	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23
External Residential as % of CFC	8.09%	8.62%	9.42%	9.91%	10.21%	11.35%	11.88%	11.36%

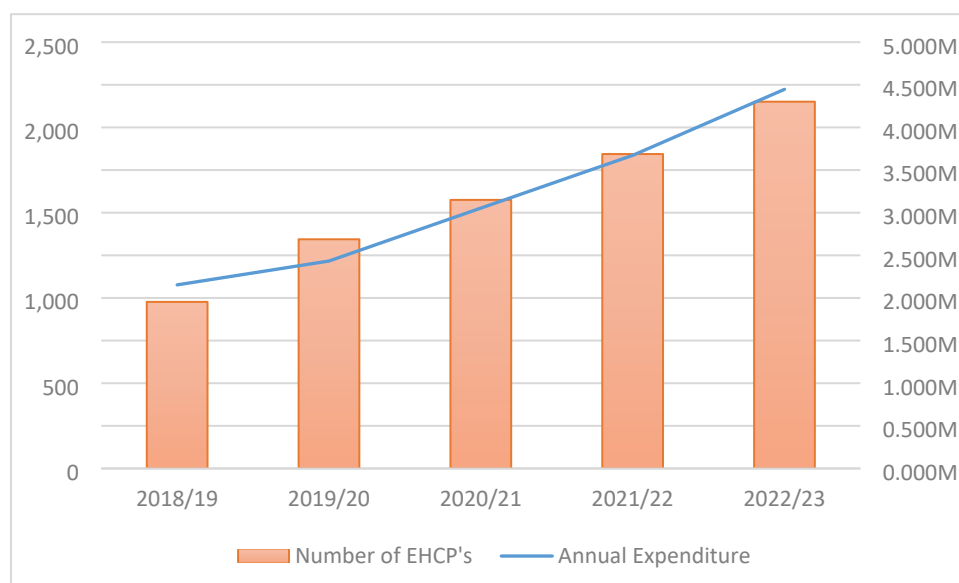
2.16 Management mitigations include achieving additional NHS and DSG contributions towards the health and education elements of care packages of children above those already forecast, which would increase income by £2.666m based on a review of the current list of Children and Young People, whose placement would attract tripartite funding. A project to rehouse 6 UASC's from transition flats to alternate accommodation, freeing up flats for residential step downs would reduce this in year forecast by a further £0.831m. The full year effect of this action would be £1.662m. Regular meetings focusing on the highest cost placements have identified future potential step downs of £0.191m in year. These will continue to be monitored and reviewed through the financial year. The restructure of in-house residential care homes

including the opening of St Lawrence Road would reduce forecasts by a further £0.251m.

Education – Underlying overspend £0.795m, nil movement from P3

- 2.17 The underlying variance is an overspend of £0.795m, which represents a nil movement from Period 3. After management actions of £0.550m, there is a net variance of £0.245m. There is a net £0.328m overspend on Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Transport in the current year due to higher than expected levels of Education Health Care Plans including transport requirements.
- 2.18 Expenditure for SEN transport has increased steadily with the sustained increase in EHCPs over the past 5 years, which is shown in Graph 2. Further review of this will be undertaken of the ongoing level of transport needs associated with young people with EHCPs and the different options available to support their journeys to school.

Graph 2: EHCP Numbers and SEN Transport Expenditure 2018/19-2022/23



- 2.19 There is an increase this year in the use of Associates on the Education Psychology Service for the delivery of statutory assessments £0.297m. £0.071m is due to increased time in court contesting school absence notices and an increase in home to school transport eligibility/demand.
- 2.20 The pressures in this area have been reduced through forecast increases in penalty notice income for unauthorised absences following the holiday period, currently projected to be £0.107m. When new SEND transport routes are implemented in September 2023, additional pupils are expected to increase route group efficiencies, reducing average cost per pupil and lead to a potential reduction in forecast expenditure of £0.250m.

Place – Underlying overspend of £4.865m, favorable movement of £0.192m

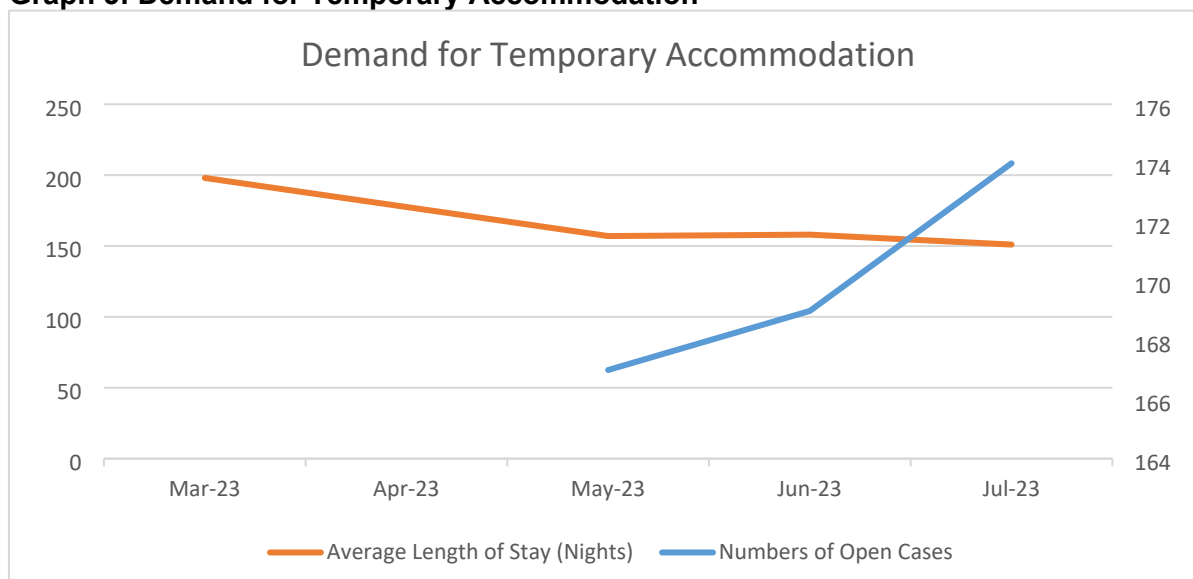
- 2.21 The forecast position as at period 4 is showing a net overspend of £4.865m for the Place Directorate. This is an improvement on the underlying position from period 3 of £0.192m, which has reduced the level of management action required. This change is mainly due to an improved forecast in Waste Services and a use of contingency to fund business rates increases outside the Directorate's control. Still, there remains a significant and challenging overspend position. As detailed in the period 3 report, the forecast is driven by cost and demand pressures continuing from 2022/23, savings not delivered in prior years and expected non-delivery of savings in 2023/24. The net position includes some significant underspends on staffing which are helping to partially mitigate the gross overspends in pressure areas. Significant management action is needed to reduce the potential overspend in this financial year. Management action for period 4 has reduced to £4.098m.

2.22 The key areas of overspend driving this position are as follows:

2.23 **Corporate Landlord £2.060m** – The majority of the overspend relates to Facilities Management costs where the forecast expenditure of £4.490m exceeds the available budget of £2.677m, resulting in an overspend of £1.813m. The budget has been reduced in each of the last 3 years in respect of savings which have not been delivered. The 2023/24 savings target is £0.920m of which only £0.258m is expected to be delivered in year due to service capacity issues which have resulted in delays in progressing asset rationalisation. An interim Asset Rationalisation Surveyor has now commenced in post which should enable some of the planned savings to be delivered in year. Contractual uplifts are also based on RPI and are expected to exceed the budgeted allowance for inflation in 23/24 by £0.200m. In addition, continuing shortfalls on rental income are resulting in a budget pressure of £0.204m combined with net forecast overspends across other budget lines.

2.24 **Homelessness £1.679m** – Continuing increases in demand for services is resulting in higher forecasted costs for temporary accommodation. Over the past 6 months, both the numbers of temporary accommodation placements and the average nightly rate has increased by 5%. Over this period, the number of placements has increased from 190 to 251 and although the service has worked to reduce the average length of stay, the ongoing increases in numbers demonstrates the continued growth in demand. Further growth in demand in this financial year has been included in the forecast. The chart below shows the progress made on reducing the average length of stay which is being offset by a large increase in numbers of cases.

Graph 3: Demand for Temporary Accommodation



2.25 At period 3, a reduction in the forecast on temporary accommodation was factored in on the basis that the service expected to secure nomination rights on 101 properties during this financial year, starting in October. This would enable the same number of families to move on from temporary accommodation resulting in reduction of 12,270 temporary accommodation nights. There is however a risk that nomination rights secured by the Council will not be to this level. Work is ongoing with the Housing Strategy team to fully review the likely levels of nomination rights and the implications on current forecasted levels of temporary accommodation. Further updates will be provided as this review is completed and the financial implications understood.

2.26 **Waste & Fleet £0.766m** – Staffing costs exceed the net budget due to the efficiency factor not being delivered as the use of agency staff to cover sickness and other absences is

required to ensure service continuity. The improvement in the Waste services forecast position is due to assumptions regarding the filling of vacant posts, 2 members of staff have also stepped down from supervisory levels which has resulted in a cost reduction. A service redesign has recently been approved and the financial implications of this will be reported in future periods. Vehicle repairs and maintenance continue to exceed budget due to a combination of increased prices and the aging fleet. Prior year savings in respect of three weekly collections and charging for replacement bins are not delivering the full saving originally anticipated.

- 2.27 **Income £0.927m** – Shortfalls in income across a number of service areas are resulting in pressures totalling £0.927m. This includes: Estates (£0.480m) due to shortfalls in rental income across the estate; Markets (£0.293m) where income from rents and services charges are not increasing at the same rate as increases in expenditure, and this is after the recent Executive Cabinet decision to increase the rent and service charges levied; and Planning (£0.154m) which continues to experience shortfalls in income from building regulation fees and planning fees.
- 2.28 Other areas of the Directorate are forecasting small under and overspends with staffing vacancies and underspends on supplies and services contributing to mitigate the total overspend position.
- 2.29 Management Actions of £4.098m are identified as a target in table 2 above, to reduce the reported overspend for the Directorate. These mitigating actions include (but are not exhaustive): a review of vacancies and planned recruitment to identify any further staffing savings, review of grant funding to ensure grant utilisation is maximised, consideration of maximising staff capitalisation against major projects where they meet the definition of capital expenditure and work within the service to identify alternative savings to meet shortfalls.
- 2.30 The interim Asset Rationalisation Manager has now started, with a priority focus on bringing forward proposals for asset rationalisation and optimisation, which should enable some of planned savings to begin to be realised later this year. However, the nature and scale of the forecast overspend the Place Directorate means there is a significant risk that management actions will not deliver mitigations at the scale or pace required to bring the overspend down in the short term, particularly in respect of the pressures being experienced in Homelessness and due to the time and notice periods required to realise substantial savings following asset rationalisation.
- Governance – Underlying overspend £0.261m, adverse movement of £0.016m**
- 2.31 The Governance Directorate has an underlying forecast net overspend of £0.261m at month 4, which represents an adverse movement of £0.016m on the month 3 position.
- 2.32 The overall underlying pressure within the Directorate is as a result of a £0.119m shortfall in earned income from schools for the provision of payroll and recruitment, human resources and Trade Unions services as a result of the non-take up of the service and academisation of schools. Within Policy, Performance and Communications, a £0.174m contribution to support the same functions in the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will no longer be received following the move to the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (GMICB) and budget realignments will be reviewed as part of budget setting.
- 2.33 In addition there is a combined £0.198m forecast overspend to budget on Pension Increase Act Payments of £0.101m, Coroners Service of £0.040m and payments in relation to the Apprentice levy Scheme £0.057m (this is based on a % of staffing costs payable each month).
- 2.34 This adverse forecast has been partially mitigated through Income to be received from the GMICB for the Place Based Lead role of £0.050m and Income received from the Greater Manchester Pension Fund of £0.103m for contributions to Senior Management roles, and

other minor net underspend variances across the directorate. At Month 3 reporting, Legal Services staffing forecast was overspending due to additional locum staff; the Monitoring Officer has reviewed the structure and caseloads and amended the forecast to reflect future use of locum solicitors in 2023/24 to being within budget.

Resources – Underlying underspend £1.372m, favourable movement of £0.048m

2.35 Resources has an underlying forecast underspend of £1.372m, which represents a positive movement of £0.048m on the month 3 position. This has primarily been caused by a combination of a further release in projection of £0.215m additional interest income from the increase in the Bank of England rate, offset by an increase in the 23/24 Insurance Premiums of £0.180m in excess of budget. The insurance renewal overspend is a result of large inflation increases to buildings valuations and insurer rating increases to the Property and Motor classes in addition a large Motor claim in 2021 contributed to the increased insurance renewal.

2.36 The overall underlying underspend is driven by £2.565m of additional interest as the Bank of England rate increases. However, this saving has been reduced by other pressures on expenditure, including £0.943m of additional costs within Exchequer Services comprising: £0.500m less income from the recovery of housing benefit overpayments; £0.322m overspend on staffing which predominantly relates to the forecast non delivery of the vacancy/efficiency factor; a £0.192m cost from the Housing Benefit Subsidy scheme; alongside £0.071m miscellaneous variances. There is a £0.084m overspend on Financial Services as a result of projected overspends on both staffing and additional external audit costs, this has reduced by £0.030m from period 3. Current forecasts within the Digital Tameside Service area are showing an underspend of £0.033m, this is mainly due to staffing forecasts.

Contingency budget virements to fund specific earmarked pressures

2.37 As part of the 2023/24 budget, approved at budget council, earmarked budgets were set aside in Contingency for specific known pressures. The proposal is that budget is transferred from earmarked Contingency to the Place directorate to fund the following two pressures;

- (a) Street lighting energy costs, £0.782m. As a result of national energy cost rises.
- (b) Business rates on Council buildings, £0.099m. Following the national 2023 Business rates revaluation the rateable values of Council’s buildings increased from the 1 April 2023.

3. SAVINGS PROGRAMME 2023/24

3.1 The overall small projected underspend against the revenue budget, explained above, includes achieving planned 2023/24 savings. Detail of the delivery status of savings by Directorate of the 2023/24 savings programme, included within the original budget, is shown in Table 5 overleaf.

Table 5: Saving Programme in 2023/24 Budget at month 4

2023/24 Budget Reductions	Opening Target £m	Red £m	Amber £m	Green £m	Achieved £m
Adults	2.550	0.000	0.857	1.108	0.585
Children's	3.970	0.280	2.958	0.732	0.000
Population Health	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.104
Place	2.103	0.201	1.385	0.446	0.071
Governance	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Resources	1.776	0.000	0.000	1.547	0.229
Quality and Safeguarding	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	10.554	0.481	5.200	3.884	0.989
%		4.6%	49.3%	36.8%	9.4%

3.2 At month 4, 46.2% (42% at month 3) of the programme is considered to be achieved, or on track to be delivered, a total of £4.873m. A further £5.200m is classed as Amber, with some issues or delays in delivery with £0.481m or 4.6% (11.6% at month 3), with serious concerns of delivery (red rated savings are detailed in Table 7 overleaf). These savings are discussed with Directors and their management teams as part of the STAR Chamber process that has been implemented to give a key focus on savings delivery. To track changes to savings delivery each month a comparison between month 3 and month 4 is shown in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Change in Savings Programme RAG rating between month 3 and 4

	Opening Target £m	Red £m	Amber £m	Green £m	Achieved £m
Month 3 Total	10.554	1.227	4.897	4.326	0.104
Month 4 Total	10.554	0.481	5.200	3.884	0.989
Change from M4 to M3		(0.746)	0.303	(0.442)	0.885
Month 3 %		11.6%	46.4%	41.0%	1.0%
Month 4 %		4.6%	49.3%	36.8%	9.4%

Table 7: Red rated savings at month 4

Directorate	Scheme	Savings Ref No.	Opening Target £m	Red £m
Children's	Management Review	CH20	0.280	0.280
Place	Industrial Estate Unit Rental / Change in Use - Plantation Unit 7	PL6	0.130	0.047
Place	FM / TAS Contract Review	PL7	0.320	0.090
Place	Street Lighting - reduction in energy consumption (reduce brightness)	PL10	0.108	0.034
Place	Reduction in parking enforcement contract costs based on reduced service spec (based on 5% reduction)	PL15	0.030	0.030
Total			0.868	0.481

4. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

4.1 The overall forecast position on the DSG is a deficit of £2.540m, as reported to the Schools Forum, details are included in Table 8 below. The deficit predominantly relates to the ongoing pressure on High Needs. Further information is included in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.4. The cumulative DSG position at the end of 2022/23 was a deficit of £3.306m. The forecast closing balance on the DSG at the end of the current financial year is £5.846m. There is currently a statutory override in place for the DSG from 2023-24 to 2025-26 which means any DSG deficits are not included in the council's main revenue budgets. Beyond this period any deficit would become recognised in the council's revenue position.

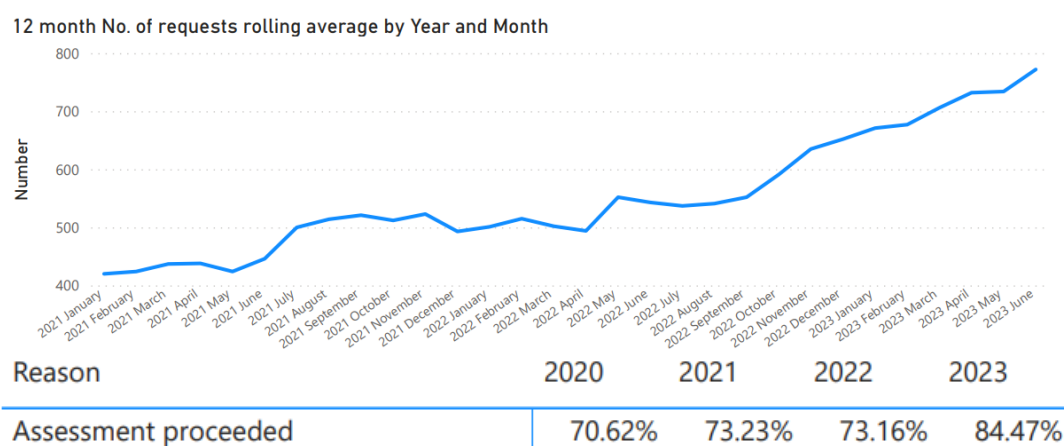
Table 8: Dedicated Service Grant (DSG) 2023/24 Forecast Deficit

DSG Funding Blocks	DSG Settlement	Block Transfer	Revised DSG	Forecast Distribution /	Forecast (Surplus)
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	2023-24 at Mar 2023 £m	2023-24 £m	2023-24 £m	Expenditure 2023-24 £m	/ Deficit £m
Schools Block	201.052	(0.694)	200.358	200.349	(0.010)
Central School Services Block	1.249	0	1.249	1.249	0.000
High Needs Block	37.144	0.694	37.838	40.682	2.845
Early Years Block	18.082	0	18.082	17.737	(0.345)
Early Years Block estimated funding adjustment			(0.049)		0.049
Total	257.527	0	257.477	260.017	2.540

- 4.2 There is a forecast surplus of £0.010m on the Schools Block. This relates to unallocated growth, with the final growth allocation based on pupil numbers at the October 2023 census point and the figures will be updated once this has been finalised and may impact on the current surplus forecast. It is proposed that any surplus on the Schools Block contributes to the DSG deficit.
- 4.3 The forecast in-year deficit on the High Needs Block is expected to be £3.538m, which reduces to £2.845m with the £0.694m transfer from the Schools Block. In previous years, the Block Transfer would represent 0.5% (the maximum allowable in the Regulations), however this year it has been held at 0.354% to ensure no school would be capped following changes to indicators that build their budgets under the National Funding Formula (NFF). The forecast also includes £2.514m of estimated in-year growth related to increasing number of EHCP's and the planned new Resourced Bases. The driver of the deficit on the block is due to the rapid growth in the number of EHCP's. Graph 4 shows the number of monthly EHCP requests on a 12-month average basis continuing to rise. The table below the graph shows the number of EHCP requests that are approved, over the past 4 years. Both the number of requests and the percentage of those requests that become EHCP's are rising year on year. If the management action of additional DSG contributions towards Children's Social Care placement costs is achieved this would place an additional pressure on the High Needs Block of £1.333m. Work is ongoing to quantify the scope of High Needs Block contributions to Children Social Care placements.

Graph 4: EHCP Requests 12 Month rolling average 2021-23



- 4.4 In this context, the goal of Tameside's involvement with the DBV programme is to identify sustainable changes to the local SEND system that can drive high quality outcomes for children and young people with SEND, and the DBV programme has culminated in an evidence-based grant application to assist the implementation of those changes.

- 4.5 Following root cause analysis and triangulation via case reviews, surveys and various deep dives Transitions and Early Years have been identified as two high impact areas which the DBV Plan has focused on. If successful, the £1.000m revenue grant will likely be available from September 2023 and is expected to be utilised within two years. The Tameside Draft DBV Plan includes some quick wins that could be spent within autumn 2023 term but the majority of work streams will start implementation from January 2024 or September 2024.
- 4.6 The Early Years Block is currently forecasting a surplus of (£0.345m). However, the funding settlement for Early Years will be updated in August 2023 and it is anticipated there will be a reduction of £0.049m to reflect the January 2023 census data. Therefore, there is an estimated surplus of £0.295m.
- 5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME**
- 5.1 There are no changes on capital since month 3. Table 9 below presents the capital expenditure by service area at month 3 which shows services are projecting expenditure of £12.913m less than the current capital budget for the year.
- 5.2 However, it should be noted that the existing Disabled Facilities Grant allocation for 2023/24 included in the Adult Services capital programme is £2.849m. On 7 September 2023 the Council was allocated additional Disabled Facilities Grant funding of £0.249m via the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities.
- 5.3 The Disabled Facilities Grant is capital funding for the provision of home adaptations to help eligible older and disabled people to live as independently and safely as possible in their homes which should reduce annual revenue expenditure of related care packages within Adult Services.
- 5.4 The additional grant award is to be included in the current year Adult Services capital programme, the monitoring of which will be included in subsequent reports.

Table 9 – Capital Expenditure by Service Area

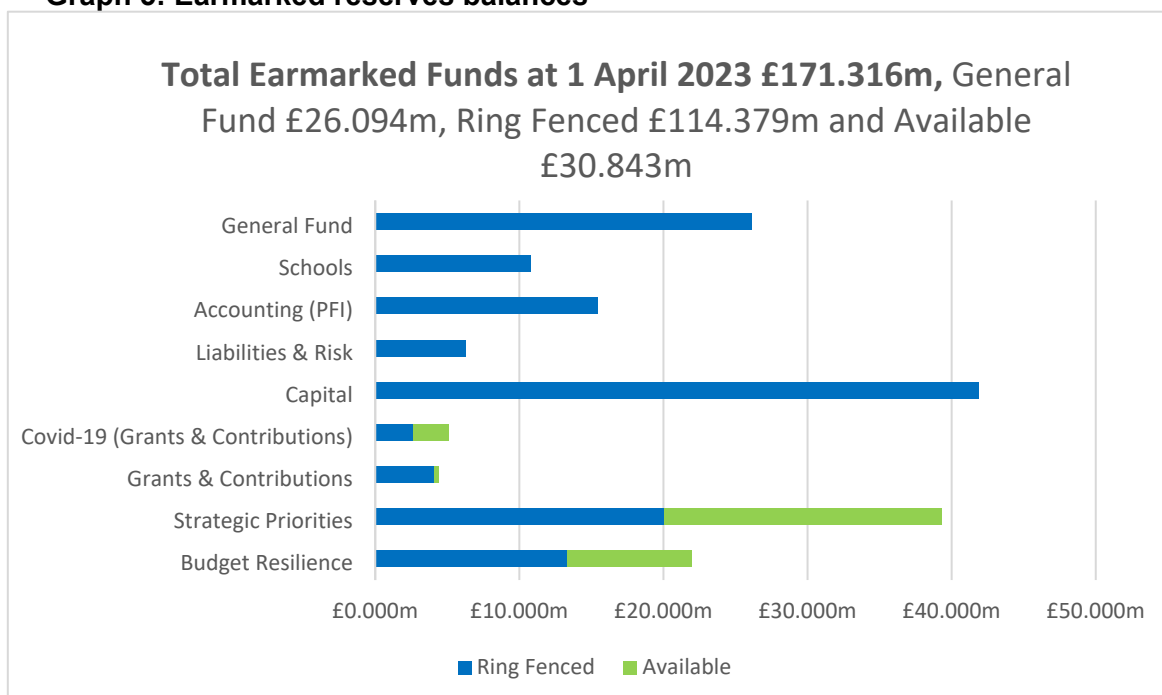
	2023/24 Budget	Actual to Date	Projected Outturn	Projected Outturn Variation	Reprofiling to / (from) future years	Projected Variation after reprofiling
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Place: Property, Development and Planning						
Investment & Development	21.262	0.583	11.659	(9.603)	(9.604)	0.001
Corporate Landlord	0.993	0.007	0.992	(0.001)	-	(0.001)
Vision Tameside	0.073	-	0.073	-	-	-
Active Tameside	0.102	0.103	0.103	0.001	-	0.001
Place: Operations and Neighbourhoods						
Engineers	4.725	0.129	4.721	(0.004)	-	(0.004)
Ops & Greenspace	1.370	0.065	1.404	0.034	-	0.034
Fleet Replacement	0.826	-	-	(0.826)	(0.826)	-
Estates	0.008	0.007	0.008	-	-	-
Childrens Social Care						
Education	22.235	1.016	22.209	(0.026)	-	(0.026)
Children	2.863	0.040	1.222	(1.641)	(1.641)	-

Resources						
Digital Tameside	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adults Social Care						
Adults	4.745	0.367	3.907	(0.838)	(0.838)	-
Governance						
Governance	0.032	0.006	0.023	(0.009)	-	-
Total	59.234	2.323	46.321	(12.913)	(12.909)	0.005

6. EARMARKED RESERVES

- 6.1 The value and categories of earmarked reserves as at 1 April 2023 are summarised below in Graph 5. Whilst the overall level of earmarked reserves held by the Council remains strong, most of these earmarked reserves are committed, with only £30.843m not committed outside of the general fund balance of £26.094m. No uncommitted reserves have been used in this year to date.
- 6.2 At Period 02 reporting, Members were advised on the level of reserves excluding the General Fund balance and Schools-related reserves. Reserves balances excluding the General Fund balance and schools-related reserves are £132m. Reserves balances including the General Fund balance and schools-related reserves total £171m.

Graph 5: Earmarked reserves balances



7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 As stated on the front cover of the report.

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Agenda Item 5

Report to :	EXECUTIVE CABINET.
Date :	27 September 2023.
Report of:	Councillor Gerald P Cooney – Executive Leader. Sandra Stewart – Chief Executive.
Subject :	STRATEGIC DELIVERY & PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK.
Report Summary :	The council should have a clearly understood and effectively implemented strategic delivery and performance framework. Good practice would be for that framework to be summarised in a written document. It is appropriate and timely to review and refresh the framework. This paper presents the conclusions of that review and outlines the proposed codified model going forward. The proposed framework is attached at <u>Appendix 1</u> . The framework will be implemented subject to agreement by the Executive Cabinet on 27 September 2023.
Recommendations :	To agree the framework at <u>Appendix 1</u> and to support its implementation and delivery subject to agreement by the Executive Cabinet on 27 September 2023.
Links to Corporate Plan:	The corporate plan sits at the top of the strategic delivery and performance framework.
Policy Implications :	The report will have policy implications in a number of areas across the council as it outlines a new framework for delivery and performance that services will need to adhere to.
Financial Implications : (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. Any changes to policy, practice or service delivery arising from the new framework will need to be accommodated within existing budgets and/or be subject to a separate report.
Legal Implications : (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	Updating the strategic and delivery framework is a key element for effective management and delivery of the council's performance in order to drive continued improvement and meeting the council's statutory duties in service delivery.
Risk Management :	A codified, clearly understood and effectively implemented strategic delivery and performance framework contributes to good governance and the achievement of better outcomes. The absence of such a framework risks service failure for residents and reputational damage for the council.
Access to Information :	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Simon Brunet, Head of Policy, Performance, Communications and Scrutiny.



Telephone: 0161 342 3542



e-mail: simon.brunet@tameside.gov.uk

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Council's should have a clearly understood and effectively implemented strategic delivery and performance framework. Good practice would be for that framework to be summarised in a written document that is accessible to all staff and members as part of the council's wider arrangements around good governance. The absence of such a framework would risk service failure for residents and reputational damage for the council.
- 1.2 Following the establishment of the Office for Local Government (Oflog), the consultation on new Best Value Duty statutory guidance and the need for continuous improvement it is appropriate and timely to review and refresh (where necessary) the council's approach.
- 1.3 This paper presents the conclusions of that review and outlines the proposed codified model going forward. The proposed framework is attached at **Appendix 1**. The framework will be implemented subject to agreement by the Executive Cabinet on 27 September 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 As set out on the front of the report.

(1) <u>CORPORATE PLAN</u>	
(2) <u>KEY DELIVERY PROJECTS</u> E.g., Godley Green, Family Hubs (incl. political priorities – ‘pledges’)	(3) <u>KEY STRATEGIES</u> E.g., Inclusive Growth, Early Help, Environment & Climate, Housing, Older People, Community Safety.
(4) <u>CORPORATE PLAN – ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH SCORECARD</u> Service measures linked to key delivery projects (2), external assurance frameworks and local priorities.	
(5) <u>BUSINESS PLANS</u> Strategic (2) and operational (8)	(6) <u>THEMATIC STRATEGIES</u>
(7) <u>SERVICE SCORECARDS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Children & Families (incl. education) b) Adults & Older People c) Place – Community (incl. poverty) d) Place – Operations (incl. environment) e) Place – Growth (incl. housing, employment, skills, investment, strategic transport) f) Population Health (linked to JSNA) g) Corporate (incl. finance, governance, exchequer, workforce, IT) 	
(8) <u>SERVICE PLANS</u> (incl. service risks to feed into directorate and corporate risk register)	
(9) <u>MY PERFORMANCE (staff appraisal and development)</u>	
<i>Underpinned by evidence & learning from:</i>	
(10) <u>INSIGHT & INTELLIGENCE</u> Needs Assessments – JSNA & thematic needs assessments - e.g., DA, Poverty, CYP, Older People, and pharmacy. Thematic / bespoke analysis and tools – e.g., Census, Strategic Tools, poverty monitor, DA dashboard. Voice – e.g., PEN, Big Conversation, complaints, LISTENing, experts by experience (e.g., MVP, CiCC, Autism).	
(11) <u>CHALLENGE & BENCHMARKING</u> Inspection and oversight – Best Value duty, Oflog, Ofsted, CQC etc. Peer Review – LGA, ADCS, ADAS etc. External learning – LGSCO, GM, CIPFA, CSE, APSE etc. Assurance – Risk Management, Internal and External Audit, Audit Panel, Overview and Scrutiny Panels.	

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Agenda Item 6

Report to :	EXECUTIVE CABINET.
Date :	27 September 2023.
Report of:	Councillor Leanne Feeley – Executive Member for Education, Achievement and Equalities.
Subject :	REVIEW OF EQUALTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FORM AND LOCAL PROTECTED GROUPS
Report Summary :	The new Equality Strategy 2023-27 was agreed at Executive Cabinet in February 2023. Within the new strategy are actions to review the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) template used by the council and the local protected groups (in addition to those in the Equality Act 2010). The report summarises the evidence used to inform the review and recommendations. The new Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) template is attached at Appendix 1 . The local protected groups are attached at Appendix 2 .
Recommendations :	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Agree the new Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) template attached at Appendix 1 is adopted by the council.2) Confirm the corporate standard that Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) should be included with all proposals going through the governance process; cited (with key issues) on the front sheet of reports; and mitigations reviewed after the implementation of proposals.3) Agree the revised local protected groups (in addition to those in the Equality Act 2010) outlined at Appendix 2 are adopted by the Council.
Links to Corporate Plan:	Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) ensure good service delivery – in particular for groups with additional or different needs – and as such underpin delivery of all the council’s objectives in the Corporate Plan.
Policy Implications :	The report outlines a revised template for completing Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) and confirms the local protected groups in addition to those in the Equality Act 2010. All service changes require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), and where appropriate those changes should be adjusted or mitigated as per the findings.
Financial Implications : (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The 2024/25 budget proposals which are also policy decisions, will be reviewed using the latest Equalities Impact Assessment template.</p> <p>Any changes to policy or service delivery arising from the new guidance will need to be accommodated within existing budgets and/or be subject to separate reports.</p>
Legal Implications : (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	The Council as a public sector organisation has a legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty to identify and consider the impact and potential impact in terms of equality, of our activities. A key tool for undertaking and being able to evidence this is by way of undertaking an equality Impact Assessment (EIA).
Risk Management :	A codified, clearly understood and effectively implemented approach to assessing the impact of changes in council services on protected groups is essential to meeting the organisation’s statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010. Failure to have such as process risks legal challenge, reputational damage and poor service delivery for residents. The refreshed approach outlined further strengthens the

council's current compliance with its legal duties and obligations as community leaders with regards to equality impact and service development.

Access to Information :

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Simon Brunet – Head of Policy, Performance, Communications and Scrutiny.



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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Equality Act 2010 puts a duty of due regard on local authorities regarding those people with protected characteristics. Public authorities are required to assess the impact on protected characteristic groups of new or revised policies and practices. The nine protected characteristics groups are defined in the Act.
- 1.2 The Brown Principles (*) are a judicial guide on how to comply with due regard duties and equalities. They outline six tests around impact assessments. The sixth of those test states, "*it is good practice for those exercising public functions in public authorities to keep an adequate record*".

(*) *R (Brown) v Secretary of State for Work & Pensions & the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform [2008] EWHC 3158 (Admin)*.

- 1.3 With the Equality Act and the Brown principles in mind, Tameside Council's approach has been to have a standard equality impact assessment (EIA) form that should be used as part of the development of new policies, practices and services.
- 1.4 Tameside Council agreed a new Equality Strategy 2023-27 at Executive Cabinet in February 2023. The new strategy included an action to review the equality impact assessment (EIA) template and the local protected groups (in addition to those in the Equality Act). The response to that action is the subject of this report.

2. EVIDENCE

- 2.1 A range of evidence was used to inform the review of the equality impact assessment (EIA) template and the local protected groups.
 - Review of equality impact assessment forms used by other councils.
 - Review of local protected characteristic groups adopted by other councils.
 - Benchmarking of good practice with key bodies such as the Local Government Association (LGA); the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC); and the Consultation Institute (CI).
 - Feedback from, and discussions with, officers who have completed equality impact assessments (EIA).
 - Feedback and insight from staff re protected groups.
 - Learning from the All-Equals Charter (AEC) accreditation process and feedback.
- 2.2 Having reviewed all the evidence a new equality impact assessment (EIA) template had been developed (see section 3) which includes a refreshed set of local protected groups, in addition to those in the Act (see section 4).

3. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- 3.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the proposed new equality impact assessment (EIA) form – subject to agreement by Executive Cabinet.
- 3.2 The proposed new template takes a three-stage approach as outlined below.
 - Part A – initial screening
 - To summarise the proposal; make an initial assessment of impact; and decide whether there is a need to do a full EIA (Part B).
 - Part B – full EIA
 - To outline evidence and issues to consider (data & intelligence, engagement & voice, legislation and finance); assess impact; and develop mitigations.
 - Part C – post-implementation
 - To review the impacts and mitigations at 6 and 12 months after the proposal has been implemented.

- 3.3 The corporate standard requires an equality impact assessment (EIA) – using the agreed template – to be completed for all service changes and new strategies and policies. Equality impact assessments (EIA) should be included with all proposals going through the governance process; cited (with key issues) on the front sheet of reports; and mitigations reviewed after the implementation of proposals.

4. PROTECTED GROUPS

- 4.1 Most local authorities include additional local protected groups alongside the nine outlined in the Equality Act 2010. Tameside is one those and has include local protected groups for a number of years. These additional groups have been adopted on the basis of being a priority area of focus for the council and partners and/or a group whose needs require extra attention.
- 4.2 Attached at **Appendix 2** is a proposed refresh of the local protected groups to be adopted by Tameside Council (subject to agreement by Executive Cabinet). The suggested changes are summarised below.

Retain:

- Mental health.
- Carers.
- Socio-economic (adopted in October 2022).
- Cared for children (adopted in March 2023).
- Care leavers (adopted in March 2023).

Adopt:

- Neurodivergence.

Extend:

- Gender identity – go further than the Equality Act 2010 which is limited to ‘Gender Reassignment’.

Re-position:

- Breastfeeding – implicit within pregnancy and maternity in the Equality Act 2010.
- Military veterans – priority focus for last 5 years has raised awareness as planned and is also covered by the ongoing Armed Forces Covenant duty.

- 4.3 Local protected groups will be kept under regular review and will be amended as required and subject to appropriate governance.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS


- 5.1 As set out on the front of the report.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



Subject / Title	
Project Lead Officer (Name and Job Title)	
Assistant Director / Director	
Department	
Directorate	

EIA Start Date	EIA Completion Date

This Equality Impact Assessment template contains collapsible advice and instructions. **Whenever you see a white triangle pictured here.**  **Click on it to reveal or collapse advice and instructions.**

PURPOSE OF THE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) aims to examine whether a proposal will contribute to or alleviate inequalities in Tameside through assessing the potential impacts the proposal may have on people with 'protected characteristics'. (A 'proposal' here includes any strategy, policy, service change, or project).

'Protected characteristics' are attributes that people have or experiences that people may go through which can result in marginalisation or disadvantage. Under the Equality Act 2010, there are nine legally mandated protected characteristics to consider:

- Age
- Sex
- Race (including colour, nationality, and ethnicity)
- Religion or belief
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity¹

¹ We have rearticulated 'gender reassignment' under the Equality Act 2010 as 'gender identity'. An explanation for this is given in the definitions of protected characteristics in STEP FIVE.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form

- Pregnancy and maternity
- Being married or in a civil partnership

Tameside Council has classified further characteristics as protected, referred to as 'extra protected characteristics'. These are below:

- Carers
- Cared for Children and Care Leavers
- Ill Mental Health
- Neurodivergence
- Socio-Economic Disadvantage

Conducting an Equality Impact Assessment based on these protected characteristics will aid compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010, section 149), which requires that all public bodies pay 'due regard' to the three general aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty:

- Page 4
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

Having 'due regard' involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT CORPORATE STANDARDS

Due to the important ethical and legal aims of the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), there are several corporately agreed criteria which should be fulfilled when completing EIAs:

- An EIA is required for all formal decisions that involve changes to service delivery. For all other proposals, an EIA must be considered.
- The decision as to whether an EIA is undertaken rests with the Project Lead Officer in consultation with the appropriate Assistant Director / Director where necessary. Where an EIA is not completed, the reason(s) for this must be detailed within the appropriate report.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



- EIAs must be timely and completed alongside the development of any proposal. The findings of any potential detrimental or inequitable impact that may occur through the implementation of the proposal on residents, service users, or staff must be brought to the attention of the decision maker in the accompanying report. Appropriate mitigations must be integrated into the development of the proposal.
- EIAs should be carried out by at least two people. Guidance from case law indicates that judgements arrived at in isolation are not consistent with showing ‘due regard’ to the necessary equality duties.

INITIAL SCREENING

Purpose:	To identify which proposals need to proceed to Part II of the EIA Process – the full EIA.
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Step 1: Summarise the proposal

1a.	Proposal Title:	<i>What is the title of the proposal (strategy, policy, service change, or project)?</i>
1b.	Proposal Aims:	<i>Identify the main aims of the proposal.</i>
1c.	Context:	<i>Provide any relevant contextual information to the proposal – e.g. needs of local residents/service users, gaps in service provision, national policy drivers, links with the Corporate Plan, links with other policies, etc.</i>

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form

1d.	Stakeholders:	<i>Identify who the proposal is aimed at, who will benefit from the proposal, who will be impacted by the proposal, and who is involved in the proposal's development.</i>
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Step 2: Impact Analysis – identify the impacts

Purpose:	To identify potential impacts the proposal may have on people with protected characteristics.
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SEE INSTRUCTION:

Each potential impact can be classified as 'direct' or 'indirect'.

A **direct impact** occurs when the proposal is targeted at a particular group. For example, if libraries closed down children's areas, this would directly impact children under 'Age'.

An **indirect impact** occurs when the proposal is more general or universal, but it has a knock-on effect on people with particular protected characteristics. For example, if a pelican crossing is removed due to construction or highway changes, this would indirectly impact people with disabilities ('Disability'), the elderly ('Age'), people with children or who are pregnant ('Pregnancy/Maternity').

If a detrimental direct or indirect impact is identified, an appropriate **mitigating action** should be integrated into the development of the proposal. A mitigating action is an adjustment to the proposal that will reduce or minimise the impact. This is covered in STEP SIX of the EIA Process.

The Impact Analysis is separated between two steps: STEP TWO (here) and STEP FIVE (below). In this step:

- State whether any direct or indirect impacts have been identified under each protected characteristic.
- List the impacts identified under each protected characteristic.
- Identify whether a mitigation action is required.

There is **no requirement** at this stage to provide the detailed evidence about each impact or identify specific mitigating actions.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



When identifying impacts, think about:

- Information and intelligence you have access to (e.g. data that is publicly available)
- Experiences and knowledge of residents and service users
- Experiences and knowledge of colleagues, including frontline staff
- Experiences in other local boroughs, particularly Greater Manchester and statistical neighbours
- Research reports from think tanks, academia, government organisations, and charities
- **‘Multiple marginalisation’** – how the proposal may impact people with combinations of protected characteristics (e.g. Age and Race/Ethnicity) rather than consider each protected characteristic singularly. A proposal may impact people with one combination of protected characteristics more than another combination of protected characteristics. For example, moving a service from physical to digital provision may detrimentally affect elderly people of Bangladeshi backgrounds more than elderly people of a White British background.

Protected Characteristic	Direct Impact	Indirect Impact	Mitigation Required
<p>Select yes or no from the drop-down list in each box to identify whether any direct or indirect have been identified under each protected characteristic, and also select yes or no to determine whether a mitigating action is required. Subsequently, list these impacts.</p>			
Age	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Sex	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Race (including colour, nationality, and ethnicity)	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Religion or Belief	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Disability	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Sexual Orientation	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Gender Identity	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Pregnancy/Maternity	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



Marriage/Civil Partnership	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Carers	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Cared for Children and Care Leavers	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Ill Mental Health	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Neurodivergence	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Multiple Marginalisation	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No

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Step 3: Initial Screening Sign Off

Purpose:	To determine whether a proposal should proceed from the Initial Screening to the Full Equality Impact Assessment.
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SEE INSTRUCTION:

A full Equality Impact Assessment should be undertaken when:

- There is a formal decision relating to changes in service delivery
- A detrimental impact against a protected group has been identified, irrespective of whether the impact is direct or indirect
- There are substantial, important gaps in knowledge that prevent proper consideration of the proposal's potential impacts

Sign off is only required if the Initial Screening does not proceed to the Full Equality Impact Assessment.

1e.	Does the proposal require a full EIA?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



1f.	If you are not undertaking a full EIA, please provide justification as to why not.	
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This initial screening has been completed by the EIA Lead Officer:	Name:	
	Signature:	
	Department:	
	Date:	
This Initial Screening has been checked by the Assistant Director / Director:	Name:	
	Signature:	
	Department:	
	Date:	

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FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Step 4: Issues to Consider

SEE INSTRUCTION:

Data and Intelligence

The following types of data can potentially be accessed:

- Publicly available national data (e.g. from the Local Authority Interactive Tool, ONS, NOMIS, NHS Digital, relevant government departments)
- Local data
- Service user information

It is also worth considering how this data can be used, for example:

- Benchmarking data for Tameside against other local authorities, e.g. local authorities in Greater Manchester, statistical neighbours
- Whether national or regional data can be applied to Tameside
- Whether data at a smaller geographical scale than Tameside is required, e.g. by ward, by MSOA/LSOA

Further intelligence can be gathered from the following:

- Research reports from think tanks, academia, government organisations, and charities
- Policy briefings
- Academic papers (which can be found through search engines, e.g. Google Scholar)

Data and Intelligence

4a. *List the type of evidence and specific sources that have been used to inform this Equality Impact Assessment. Do not go into detail of what has been found or describe consultation/engagement, as these will be addressed in later parts of the form.*

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



SEE INSTRUCTION:

Consultation and Engagement

It is expected that you will engage with potential impacted groups on this proposal when undertaking the Equality Impact Assessment to better understand potential impacts on people with protected characteristics.

Engagement can occur through:

- A general consultation/engagement exercise on the proposal (e.g. a survey), where space is provided to discuss impacts on people with protected characteristics
- Regular channels of engagement or feedback e.g. a service user panel that you already operate
- Input from colleagues (particularly frontline staff) and partners (e.g. the VCSE sector)

Alternatively, insights can be retrieved from engagement or consultation exercises that have previously occurred.

Consultation and Engagement			
4b. Page 51	Has any consultation or engagement been conducted that is relevant to this Equality Impact Assessment?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
		If YES, answer 4c-4e.	If NO, answer 4f.
4c.	Engagement Undertaken:	<i>List the engagement exercises conducted that are relevant to this Equality Impact Assessment.</i>	
4d.	Who has been engaged with?	<i>List who has been engaged with to inform this Equality Impact Assessment. Be as specific as possible; identify specific forums or channels through which you have conducted engagement (e.g. service user panels) and the protected characteristics these broadly cover.</i>	

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



4e.	Outcomes of Engagement:	<i>Identify the key findings from the engagement that has occurred (e.g. any potential impacts the proposal may have, reasons for potential impacts, any mitigating actions that have been identified, etc.)</i>
4f.	If engagement has not been undertaken, please explain why.	

SEE INSTRUCTION:

Legislative Drivers

It is worth considering any legislative drivers that may influence the Equality Impact Assessment:

- Legal duties that services have to abide by, including the Public Sector Equality Duty
- Case law and judicial review, particularly instances where similar services have been provided and challenged, and as a result, have needed to change

Legislative Drivers

4g.	<i>Identify the specific pieces of legislation, case law, or judicial review specific to your service/project that have influenced this Equality Impact Assessment, and how these have influenced the analysis and outcomes.</i>
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SEE INSTRUCTION:

Financial Considerations

It is worth considering any financial considerations that may influence the Equality Impact Assessment, e.g. budgeting, available resources, etc.

This is particularly in relation to mitigating actions that are identified in STEP SIX, which are needed to reduce potential impacts of the proposal at hand.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



It may be worth thinking about how mitigating actions can serve as opportunities for innovation.

Financial Considerations	
4g.	<i>Identify any financial considerations that have influenced the analysis and outcomes of this Equality Impact Assessment.</i>

Step 5: Impact Analysis – evidence the impacts

Purpose:	To provide evidence of the potential impacts identified under each protected characteristic.
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FOR DEFINITIONS OF PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS, EXPAND THE INSTRUCTION BELOW.

SEE INSTRUCTION:

This step constitutes the second part of the Impact Analysis. In this step, under each protected characteristic, each potential impact should be listed and categorised (e.g. Direct or Indirect), and the evidence for each potential impacts should be provided. The potential impacts that have been identified will likely be the same as those that have been identified in STEP TWO. However, these may have changed or new impacts may be identified, due to the gathering of further evidence.

Evidence can be quantitative (numerical) or qualitative (non-numerical), addressing the ‘what’, ‘who’, ‘how’, and ‘why’ of potential impacts. Refer to the guidance on Data/Intelligence and Consultation/Engagement identified in Step 4 to assist with the evidence that can be included in the Impact Analysis.

When listing the impacts, it will help to number each impact. This will help navigate the form when identifying mitigating actions under STEP SIX.

Do not feel constrained by the space provided in the table. To add a new row, right click on the bottom row, then select ‘Insert Item After’ or click the + button. Also, each box will expand downward as the information is entered. However, when entering data tables, copy and paste as pictures; if entered as tables, it will alter the layout of the Impact Analysis form.

The definitions of protected characteristics are below:

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form

Age	A person's specific age or age group. An age group can be numerical (e.g. 18-30) or descriptive (e.g. 'the elderly', 'teenagers', etc.).
Sex	A person's biological sex, whether a person is male, female, or those who are differently sexed (e.g. intersex). This does not include sexual orientation and gender identity, which are analysed separately.
Race (including colour, ethnicity, and nationality)	How people identify themselves or are identified in society according to their skin colour, physical features, and national/cultural identity. This can cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial identities (e.g. White, Black, Asian) • Ethnic identities (e.g. Jamaican, Arab, Persian, Jewish, Irish, Gypsy/Roma) • Nationalities • Languages spoken – whether English is the first or additional language • Refugee and asylum status
Religion or Belief	Any religion or belief that a person follows or subscribes to. It includes the commonly recognised religions (such as Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, and Sikhism) and the different groups within each religion (e.g. in Christianity, it can cover Catholicism, Protestantism, etc.; in Islam, it can cover Sunni Islam, Shia Islam, Sufism, etc.). It also applies to religions that are not necessarily well known (e.g. Jainism, Baha'i Faith) as well as people who do not have any religious belief (e.g. those ascribing to Humanism and Atheism).
Disability	Physical or mental conditions that have substantial and long-term adverse effects on people's abilities to carry out day-to-day activities. This covers a wide range of disabilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical and mobility impairments • Sensory impairments (e.g. sight, hearing) • Learning disabilities • Progressive conditions (e.g. neurodegenerative disorders, muscular dystrophies, dementia) • Fluctuating and recurring conditions (e.g. rheumatoid arthritis, epilepsy, myalgic encephalitis) • Organ-specific disorders (e.g. respiratory conditions, cardiovascular diseases) • Auto-immune conditions
Sexual Orientation	The orientation that a person has toward another person of any sex or gender. Common orientations are towards people of the opposite sex/gender (e.g. heterosexual/ straight), towards people of the same sex/gender (e.g. a gay man or lesbian), or towards multiple sexes/genders (e.g. bisexual or pansexual). There are other orientations that should be considered (e.g. asexual – a person who does not experience sexual attraction). A person's orientation can be sexual, romantic, or emotional.
Gender Identity	The gender that a person identifies with. People most commonly identify with the gender that matches their sex assigned at birth – i.e. as a man or woman. People who are trans identify with a gender that is different to their sex assigned at birth. Included amongst people with trans identities are people "proposing to undergo, undergoing, or having undergone a process to reassign sex". This is the legal definition for 'gender reassignment' under the Equality Act 2010. However, this legal definition does not include trans people who do not choose to undertake the medical transitioning process and people with other gender identities (e.g. those who identify as non-binary, gender fluid, etc.).

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Pregnancy/Maternity	<p>‘Pregnancy’ refers to when a person is pregnant and expecting a baby. Any person who can become pregnant should be considered – e.g. women, trans men, and people with different gender identities. This should also cover all aspects of the pregnancy journey, including those who have been affected by miscarriage.</p> <p>‘Maternity’ refers to the period following the birth of the child. In employment, this is related to parental leave. In the non-work context, this is related to unfavourable treatment relating to being a mother or parent. Legally, for the latter, protection is applied for 26 weeks. An important aspect of maternal/parental discrimination is <i>breastfeeding</i>.</p>
Marriage/Civil Partnership	<p>A person’s marital status in law, whether a person is married or in a civil partnership to another person of the opposite sex or same sex.</p>
Carers	<p>Any person who provides unpaid care for a partner, family member, or friend due to illness, disability, frailty, a mental health problem, or an addiction. The person being provided care cannot cope or finds it difficult to cope without that person’s care and support. A carer can have varying caring responsibilities, such as supporting people with everyday tasks (e.g. getting out of bed, bathing, etc.) or providing emotional support. This covers people who may not see themselves as ‘carers’, whom do not separate their caring responsibilities from the relationship that they have with the person for whom they provide care. Importantly, this covers young carers who provide care for their parents or other relatives.</p>
Cared for Children/ Care Leavers	<p>‘Cared for Children’ (sometimes known as ‘looked after children’) are children and young people in the care of the local authority due to their parents being unable to take care of them in a temporary or permanent capacity. ‘Care Leavers’ are any adult who have previously spent time in the care of the local authority.</p>
Mental Health	<p>A person with a condition related to their psychological or emotional wellbeing. This includes a wide variety of conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common mental health problems, such as depression or anxiety disorders • Trauma (e.g. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) • Severe mental illness (e.g. Psychosis/Schizophrenia or Bipolar Disorder) • Phobias (e.g. Agoraphobia)
Neurodivergence	<p>A person whose mind works differently to neurocognitive styles that society regards as ‘normal’. This includes a wide range of conditions and experiences: Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dyspraxia, Dysgraphia, Epilepsy, Tourette’s, Aphantasia/Synaesthesia, etc.</p>
Socio-Economic Disadvantage	<p>A wide range of experiences accruing from having a disadvantaged socio-economic status: having low or no income; living in absolute or relative poverty; unemployment or underemployment; living in substandard housing; being homeless or threatened with homelessness; food insecurity and poverty; fuel poverty; digital exclusion; etc.</p>
Multiple Marginalisation	<p>A wide variety of combinations of different protected characteristics that uniquely influence a person’s experiences. Any combination of protected characteristics can be two or above (e.g. RACE/ETHNICITY and GENDER IDENTITY; CARE LEAVER, CARER, and SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE).</p>

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



Impact No.	Protected Characteristic <i>Select a protected characteristic from the drop-down list</i>	Impact <i>Identify the potential impact of the proposal</i>	Impact Type (Direct/Indirect) <i>Select 'direct' or 'indirect' from the drop-down list</i>	Evidence <i>Provide evidence regarding the proposal's potential impact (e.g. data/intelligence, findings from consultation/engagement, research reports, etc.).</i>
1	Choose a protected characteristic.		Choose an impact type.	
2	Choose a protected characteristic.		Choose an impact type.	
3	Choose a protected characteristic.		Choose an impact type.	
4	Choose a protected characteristic.		Choose an impact type.	
5	Choose a protected characteristic.		Choose an impact type.	
6	Choose a protected characteristic.		Choose an impact type.	
7	Choose a protected characteristic.		Choose an impact type.	
8	Choose a protected characteristic.		Choose an impact type.	

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9	Choose a protected characteristic.		Choose an impact type.	
10	Choose a protected characteristic.		Choose an impact type.	

Step 6: Plan mitigating actions

Purpose:	To identify mitigating actions to minimise potential detrimental impacts of the proposal on people with protected characteristics.
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Impact Register Number for Impact Analysis	Impact <i>Identify the impact being addressed</i>	Mitigating Action and Rationale <i>Describe the action required to reduce the detrimental impact identified in the Impact Analysis, and explain the rationale underneath and/or intended outcome.</i>	Officer Responsible <i>Identify who is responsible for implementing the mitigating action (name and department).</i>	Timescale <i>Provide the timeframe for when the mitigating action should be implemented.</i>	Completed (Yes/No) <i>Has the mitigating action been implemented?</i>	Update <i>Provide any progress updates below.</i>

Step 7: Sign-off

Purpose:	For the EIA Lead Officer to sign that the EIA is complete, and for the Assistant (Director) to counter-sign that they agree with the content of the EIA and that it is sufficiently robust.
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Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



This Equality Impact Assessment has been completed by the EIA Lead Officer:	Name:	
	Signature:	
	Department:	
	Date:	
This Equality Impact Assessment has been checked by the Assistant Director / Director, and signs that it is sufficiently robust and rigorous:	Name:	
	Signature:	
	Department:	
	Date:	

POST-IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW

Step 8: Review EIA after implementation

Purpose:

To update the EIA with any new impacts and to provide a progress update on mitigating actions.

SEE INSTRUCTION:

This step should only be completed if the proposal has passed through the governance process where appropriate and has been implemented. It should be completed at two stages:

- Six months after implementation
- Twelve months after implementation

The evidence in the Impact Analysis should serve as the baseline against which change can be measured.

The Post-Implementation Review can find out whether:

- The proposal has had any positive impacts on people with protected characteristics
- Mitigating actions to minimise detrimental impacts have worked
- There are impacts that were not foreseen in the Impact Analysis that need to be accounted for

Six Months After Implementation

Twelve Months After Implementation

Describe and explain the effects of the proposal on people with protected characteristics, using evidence to compare against the Impact Analysis as a baseline.

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PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS REVIEW

Below to be adopted from 27 September 2023 (subject to agreement by Executive Cabinet)

PREVIOUS	NEW (27 September 2023)	Notes
<u>Equality Act 2010</u>		
Age	Age	
Disability	Disability	
Gender reassignment	Gender identity (incl. gender reassignment)	Recommendation: Extend Go further than the Act, and extend to Gender Identity
Marriage and civil partnership	Marriage and civil partnership	
Pregnancy and maternity	Pregnancy and maternity	Incl. Breastfeeding
Race	Race	The Act incl. colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins. As such there is also relevance asylum seekers and refugees.
Religion or belief	Religion or belief	
Sex	Sex	
Sexual orientation	Sexual orientation	
<u>Tameside & Glossop</u>		
<u>Tameside</u>		
Mental health	Mental health	Recommendation: Retain
Carers	Carers	Recommendation: Retain
Low income	Socio-economic	Recommendation: Retain Adopted October 2022
	Cared for children	Recommendation: Retain Adopted March 2023
	Care leavers	Recommendation: Retain Adopted March 2023
	Neuro-divergence	Recommendation: Adopt
Armed Forces Veterans		Recommendation: Re-position Covered by Armed Forces Covenant
Breastfeeding		Recommendation: Re-position Implicit within pregnancy and maternity

The following potential local protected characteristic groups were considered, and following discussion, it was decided not to include for now as stand alone.

- Asylum seekers and refugees (but can have relevance in race, belief, socio-economic etc.)

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Agenda Item 7

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	27 September 2023
Executive Member:	Councillor John Taylor – Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity)
Reporting Officer:	Stephanie Butterworth (DASS)
Subject:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE MARKET POSITION STATEMENT 2023-2026
Report Summary:	<p>This Market Position Statement provides an overview of the provision of Adult Social Care and support in the borough of Tameside. This document and the data in it are presented in such a way as to encourage providers to analyse, interpret and innovate by way of contributing to the realisation of Tameside’s vision for the future. The aim is to help providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the future strategic direction of care and support needs and our future commissioning intentions.• Give an overview of the current people we support, and insights into the wider market.• Make proactive business and investment decisions.• Understand future demand; where there are gaps in the current offer; and where a change to the current provision may be required• Work with us to develop the market and respond to individual needs and choices.
Recommendations:	That Executive Cabinet APPROVES The adoption and publication of the Adult Social Care Market Position Statement 2023-2026.
Corporate Plan:	<p>The proposals align with the Living Well, Working Well and Aging Well programmes for action.</p> <p>The service links into the Council’s priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help people to live independent lifestyles supported by responsible communities.• Improve Health and wellbeing of residents• Protect the most vulnerable
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>The Council has a gross expenditure budget of £133.756m for Adult Social Care in 2023/24. This represents 27.08% of the Council’s gross expenditure in 2023/24 and thus this Market Position Statement (MPS) directly impacts a significant proportion of the Council’s budget.</p> <p>The recommendations from the activity and associated reports are likely to have financial implications where policy or service delivery changes are implemented as a result. Any changes, and the associated financial implications, will need to be the subject of separate reports.</p> <p>The MPS in Appendix 1 contains financial information relating to the 2021/2022 Revenue Outturn submission. The financial information will be updated as part of the MPS Annual Review to include the most up to date published financial information using the Council’s</p>

Adult Social Care Finance Return (ASC-FR).

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is being revised for the period 2024/29. The implications of the MPS must be factored in to the budget setting process as they become known so as not to create a pressure on the General Fund in 2024/25 or future years. Any use of resources arising from decisions linked to the MPS must be economic, drive efficiency and deliver effective outcomes for the betterment of residents of Tameside.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the
Borough Solicitor)**

The Care Act 2014 and the related statutory guidance states that 'high quality, personalised care and support can only be achieved where there is a vibrant, responsive market of services available'.

Section 5 of the Care Act stipulates that councils have a statutory requirement to shape and maintain an efficient and effective market of services for meeting care and support needs in the local area.

The duty applies in relation to services that the Local Authority commissions directly, but also to other non-commissioned services in its area, including those used by self-funders, universal services and services provided by partners.

Risk Management:

Risks will be identified and managed by the appropriate officers.

Background Papers

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Trevor Tench

Telephone: Trevor Tench 0161 342 3649

e-mail: trevor.tench@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Care Act 2014 introduced new duties on local authorities to facilitate a vibrant, diverse and sustainable market for high quality care and support in their area, for the benefit of their whole local population, regardless of how the services are funded.
- 1.2 The scale of social care and support is vast and affects the lives of over ten million adults of all ages in England at any one time. People draw on care and support in different ways and at different stages of their life. Some people will require support throughout their life and become experts in their own care needs although care needs may develop suddenly.
- 1.3 Adult social care in Tameside with its philosophy of “Living Well At Home” is committed to enabling people to remain well and live independently in their own homes and communities. People who, because of a general deterioration in health or a long term condition, need additional support, can expect a good quality service that is person centred and meets their needs and is available when and where it’s needed.
- 1.4 Care and support covers a wide range of activities to promote people’s wellbeing and supports them to live independently, staying well and safe. It can include personal care, such as support for washing, dressing and getting out of bed in the morning, as well as wider personalised support to enable people to stay engaged in their communities and live their lives in the way they want. This can include support to engage in work, training, education or volunteering, or support to socialise with family and friends and maintain personal relationships.

2. MARKET POSITION STATEMENT

- 2.1 A Market Position Statement summarises supply and demand and signals business opportunities in the area. This Market Position Statement looks at adult social care provision in the borough of Tameside.
- 2.2 The document reflects the continued dialogue between the Council, people who use services, carers, providers and others about the vision for the future of local social care markets in Tameside and, hence, is aimed at:
 - Providers of adult social care who can learn about the Council’s intentions as a purchaser of services.
 - Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise organisations who can learn about future opportunities and what would enable them to build on their knowledge of local needs to develop new activities and services.
 - Providers interested in local business development and social enterprise who can read about new opportunities in the market and tell us what would help them to enter into social care markets and offer innovative services.
 - Social care providers and organisations not currently active in Tameside who could find opportunities to use their strengths and skills to benefit local people and develop their business.
- 2.3 This Market Position Statement provides an overview of the provision of Adult Social Care and support in Tameside. The document and the data in it are presented in such a way as to encourage providers to analyse, interpret and innovate by way of contributing to the realisation of Tameside’s vision for the future. The aim is to help providers:
 - Understand the future strategic direction of care and support needs and our future commissioning intentions.
 - Give an overview of the current people we support, and insights into the wider market.
 - Make proactive business and investment decisions.

- Understand future demand; where there are gaps in the current offer; and where a change to the current provision may be required
- Work with us to develop the market and respond to individual needs and choices.

2.4 Adult Services wants to develop evidence based early interventions that encourage people to manage and maintain their independence with a range of asset-based community supports. Where support is required we want services that are designed to ensure that people can get the right level and type of support, at the right time to help prevent, reduce or delay the need for ongoing support, and to maximise people's independence.

2.5 To do this we are looking to develop and improve our communication with partners, encouraging creativity and innovation, sharing ideas and best practice and engaging with our communities to better understand what local people need and want from their support. The key messages therefore are:

- The approaches must be based on human rights, equality and justice; with a focus on independence, the right to a quality life with choice and control
- The voice and experience of citizens must be central and commissioning for the future must be shaped by their specific hopes, aspirations as well as concerns; we aim to make a reality of co-production and the power of lived experience
- As people remain living at home longer, an increase in demand for housing with support will need to be responded to with digital solutions integral.
- The need for residential care will decrease with the plans to expand the provision of extra care housing in the Borough. However it is projected that the need for nursing care will increase over the coming years. Subsequently the spend on residential and nursing care as a proportion of our total budget on older people will decrease as more people are supported to live longer in their own homes; therefore staying well and independent for longer will be key to mainstream services.
- There will be more of an emphasis and encouragement on people maximising their natural community support so providers need to have a greater awareness of the community and support offers that are available to inform customers

2.6 The priority at all times will be to focus firstly on helping people to find the support they need within their communities and to avoid dependency on adult social care funded services in the long term. Where people have an eligible need, the emphasis will initially be on intensive, short-term 'reablement' which restores maximum independence. Where an assessment identifies that people need a longer-term service, the focus will remain on models that promote independence and ensure that people are able to make full use of community resources. The market position statement is clear that this will mean:

- Focusing on the outcomes that the person wants to improve upon, the level of response required and assertive monitoring of whether their life is improved as a result
- Helping individuals to make informed choices about what to buy and from whom
- Rebalancing the profile of spend away from institutional settings to support in the community, reinforced by a wider range of accommodation options
- Continuing the shift to more flexible arrangements that encourage responsiveness to the needs and choices of people based on affordability, choice, quality, and accountability in service provision
- Focusing on the needs of individual, and purchasing highly specialist services where needed
- Emphasising co-production with communities, with eligible people and their carers, and with providers.

2.7 Delivering against this will require:

- A robust Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE) infrastructure that can reliably deliver services and other opportunities

- A firmer evidence base, informed by more effective monitoring of outcomes and feedback from citizens to shape future commissioning intentions
- A close relationship with current and future providers which continues to share market intelligence to further the understanding of any potential gaps in provision and clarification of respective roles in responding to need
- An increasing emphasis on the provider's ability to demonstrate innovation, impact, productivity, cost effectiveness and value-for-money

2.8 The Market Position Statement for Tameside covers the following sections:

- Background including the national and local drivers;
- Challenges and opportunities – Tameside the Place, Demographics and Adult Social Care spend;
- Future Direction in Tameside;
- Living Well at Home – Commissioning Intentions
- Information, Advice and Advocacy;
- Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector;
- Community Support;
- Daytime Offer;
- Supported Living;
- Care Homes;
- Respite Care;
- Out of Borough Placements;
- Shared Lives;
- Community Equipment Service;
- Quality and the role of the Care Quality Commission.

2.9 Working with colleagues in Communications the Market Position Statement has gone through a full design process using Adult Services Design theme to produce the document for publication (attached as Appendix 1).

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 In meeting its Care Act duties on local in facilitating a vibrant, diverse and sustainable market the Market Position Statement documents Adult Services direction for delivering high quality care and support in the area for the benefit of the local population.

3.2 This document and the data in it are presented in such a way as to encourage providers to analyse, interpret and innovate by way of contributing to the realisation of Tameside's vision for the future.

3.3 The Market Position Statement is one element of Adult Services approach to develop and improve our communication with partners, encouraging creativity and innovation, sharing ideas and best practice and engaging with our communities to better understand what local people need and want from their support.

3.4 Given the challenges facing Councils and Adult Services, and adjustments required as new data on trends is made available it is intended that this Market Position Statement will be reviewed and amended on an annual basis.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 As set out at the front of the report.

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE MARKET POSITION STATEMENT 2023-2026

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LIVING WELL AT HOME

 **Tameside**
Metropolitan Borough

FOREWARD

We have great pleasure in introducing this Market Position Statement, which sets out our vision for care and support services in Tameside and the Council's intentions as a strategic commissioner of services. The Market Position Statement aims to create a common understanding of the local care market covering need and demand for care, and commissioning intentions to enable the effective design and delivery of services for people that need care and support now and in the future. Importantly this creates a platform for continued dialogue and collaboration between citizens, providers and the Council around the challenges facing the local social care and health system, and the market development solutions that exist to improve care outcomes.

The Care Act 2014 sets out the law around market development in adult social care. It sets out duties on local authorities to facilitate a diverse, sustainable high-quality market for their whole local population, including those who pay for their own care and to promote efficient and effective operation of the adult care and support market as a whole.

This is an important document for us because we want to influence and support the local care market to provide innovative, diverse, good quality and best value services for the people of Tameside. We have built strong relationships with many providers and we want to develop this further. We want to work in close partnership. We want to help existing and potential future providers to understand Tameside, the strategic priorities and expectations of the Council, along with the local demographics and needs of the population. We want to facilitate dialogue with existing and potential providers to encourage innovation and stimulate the local market to deliver the best possible care and support for residents.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document. We look forward to getting your feedback on it as part of our ongoing dialogue with you.



Stephanie Butterworth
Director of Adult Services



Councillor John Taylor
Executive Member for
Adult Social Care



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INTRODUCTION

The scale of social care and support is vast and affects the lives of over ten million adults of all ages in England at any one time. People draw on care and support in different ways and at different stages of their life. Some people will require support throughout their life and become experts in their own care needs although care needs may develop suddenly or, for others, gradually.

Social care supports adults of all ages with a diverse range of Care Act eligible needs, including:

- 01 Autistic people
- 02 People with a learning disability
- 03 People with a physical disability
- 04 People with mental health conditions
- 05 People with sensory impairments
- 06 People who experience substance misuse
- 07 Older people
- 08 People with dementia
- 09 People with long-term conditions

CARE & SUPPORT

Care and support covers a wide range of activities to promote people's wellbeing and supports them to live independently, staying well and safe. It can include personal care, such as support for washing, dressing and getting out of bed in the morning, as well as wider personalised support to enable people to stay engaged in their communities and live their lives in the way they want. This can include support to engage in work, training, education or volunteering, or support to socialise with family and friends and maintain personal relationships.

Adult social care in Tameside with its philosophy of "Living Well At Home" is committed to enabling people to remain well and live independently in their own homes and communities. People who, because of a general deterioration in health or a long term condition, need additional support, can expect a good quality service that is person centred and meets their needs and is available when and where it's needed.

MARKET POSITION STATEMENT

A Market Position Statement summarises supply and demand and signals business opportunities in the area. This Market Position Statement looks at adult social care provision in the borough of Tameside.

Who is this Market Position Statement aimed at?

This document reflects the continued dialogue between the Council, people who use services, carers, providers and others about the vision for the future of local social care markets in Tameside and, hence, is aimed at:

- Providers of adult social care who can learn about the Council's intentions as a purchaser of services.
- Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise organisations who can learn about future opportunities and what would enable them to build on their knowledge of local needs to develop new activities and services.

- Providers interested in local business development and social enterprise who can read about new opportunities in the market and tell us what would help them to enter into social care markets and offer innovative services.
- Social care providers and organisations not currently active in Tameside who could find opportunities to use their strengths and skills to benefit local people and develop their business.

As commissioners, we recognise that, alongside providers and communities, we need to understand the difference between supply, availability, demand and quality compared with 'what good looks like' to respond to what is needed.

Covid-19 has had a significant effect and brought about change to communities across the country as a whole, particularly on vulnerable people and groups as well as the care sector. As we come through the pandemic there is now a chance to co-produce options based on new ideas; to build back better and re-focus commissioning for a future that ensures improved wellbeing, greater choice and control and good outcomes for people in the community.

What is the purpose of this Market Position Statement?

This Market Position Statement provides an overview of the provision of Adult Social Care and support in the borough of Tameside. This document and the data in it are presented in such a way as to encourage providers to analyse, interpret and innovate by way of contributing to the realisation of Tameside's vision for the future.

- Understand the future strategic direction of care and support needs and our future commissioning intentions.
- Give an overview of the current people we support, and insights into the wider market.
- Make proactive business and investment decisions.
- Understand future demand; where there are gaps in the current offer; and where a change to the current provision may be required.
- Work with us to develop the market and respond to individual needs and choices.

Adult Services wants to develop evidence based early interventions that encourage people to manage, and maintain their independence, with a range of asset based community support. Where support is required we want services that are designed to ensure that people can get the right level and type of support, at the right time to help prevent, reduce or delay the need for ongoing support, and to maximise people's independence.

To do this we are looking to develop and improve our communication with partners, encouraging creativity and innovation, sharing ideas and best practice and engaging with our communities to better understand what local people need and want from their support.

Key messages

- The approaches must be based on human rights, equality and justice; focussing on independence, the right to a quality life with choice and control.
- The voice and experience of citizens must be central and commissioning for the future must be shaped by their specific hopes, aspirations as well as concerns; we aim to make a reality of co-production and the power of lived experience.
- As people remain living at home longer, an increase in demand for housing with support will need to be responded to with digital solutions integral.
- The need for residential care will decrease with the plans to expand the provision of extra care housing in the Borough. However it is projected that the need for nursing care will increase over the coming years. Subsequently the spend on residential and nursing care as a proportion of our total budget on older people will decrease as more people are supported to live longer in their own homes; therefore staying well and independent for longer will be key to mainstream services.
- There will be more of an emphasis and encouragement on people maximising their natural community support so providers need to have a greater awareness of the community and support offers that are available to inform customers.

PRIORITIES

Priorities will focus firstly on helping people to find the support they need within their communities and to avoid dependency on adult social care funded services in the long term. Where people have an eligible need, the emphasis will initially be on intensive, short-term 'reablement' which restores maximum independence. Where an assessment identifies that people need a longer-term service, the focus will remain on models that promote independence and ensure that people are able to make full use of community resources.

This will mean:

- Focusing on the outcomes that the person wants to improve upon, the level of response required and assertive monitoring of whether their life is improved as a result.
- Helping individuals to make informed choices about what to buy and from whom.
- Rebalancing the profile of spend away from institutional settings to support in the community, reinforced by a wider range of accommodation options.
- Continuing the shift to more flexible arrangements that encourage responsiveness to the needs and choices of people based on affordability, choice, quality, and accountability in service provision.
- Focusing on the needs of individual, and purchasing highly specialist services where needed.
- Emphasising co-production with communities, with eligible people and their carers, and with providers.

This will require:

- A robust Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE) infrastructure that can reliably deliver services and other opportunities.
- A firmer evidence base, informed by more effective monitoring of outcomes and feedback from citizens to shape future commissioning intentions.
- A close relationship with current and future providers which continues to share market intelligence to further the understanding of any potential gaps in provision and clarification of respective roles in responding to need.
- An increasing emphasis on the provider's ability to demonstrate innovation, impact, productivity, cost effectiveness and value-for-money.

National Drivers

There are a number of key statutes that govern the delivery of local authority social care including:

Care Act 2014

The Act replaces numerous previous laws to provide a coherent approach to adult social care in England by consolidating and modernising the framework of care and support law, setting out new duties for local authorities and partners, and rights for service users and carers.

The Act aims to achieve

- Clearer, fairer care and support.
- Wellbeing – physical, mental and emotional – of both the person needing care and their carer.
- Prevention and delay of the need for care and support.
- People in control of their care.

The Care Act 2014 www.legislation.gov.uk with its focus on wellbeing, provides a strong foundation for the governments vision for the future of Adult Social Care. It has been recognised that the ambition of the Care Act has not consistently been achieved in the way the Government would have liked. Building on the Care Act the Government have produced a new Adult Social Care White Paper which will introduce new measures to strengthen how care and support is delivered and provide the tools to ensure delivery on both the letter and the spirit of the Care Act.

**PEOPLE AT THE HEART
OF CARE – ADULT
SOCIAL CARE 10 YEAR
STRATEGY**

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The Government has stated its firm commitment to reforming adult social care. The vision is for people who draw on care and support to lead a fulfilling life, playing a full role in society. In addition there is a desire to acknowledge the important role of families and friends in caring for one another, while also enabling those who provide unpaid care to a friend or loved one to be supported to achieve their own life goals. Alongside this they are committed to the adult social care workforce feeling recognised and have opportunities to develop their careers.

The ambitious 10-year vision sets out how support and care in England will be transformed. The vision puts people at its heart and revolves around 3 objectives:

1. People have choice, control and support to live independent lives.
2. People can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support.
3. People find adult social care fair and accessible.

Person-centred care is a key theme running through this vision. Genuine choice and control about personalised care and support can enhance quality of life and promote independence in a way that matters to individuals.

It sets out the vision for adult social care putting people and families at its heart. It is a vision that:

- Offers people choice and control over the care they receive.
- Promotes independence and enables people to live well as part of a community.
- Properly values our exemplary and committed social care workforce, enabling them to deliver the outstanding quality care that they want to provide.
- Recognises unpaid carers for their contribution and treats them fairly.

The core purpose of adult social care should be to help people maintain or gain their independence, allowing them to have control over their lives. It should see investment in preventative services increasing care and support options available; provide the right information and advice to allow people to plan for the future; enabling people to remain in their own homes and communities for longer and achieve the outcomes that matter to them.

Other key statutes include

- The Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Mental Health Act 1983 (reviewed in 2007)
- Equality Act 2010

The Local Government Association and Directors of Adult Social Services websites have more information about social care policy.

LOCAL DRIVER

Tameside Council has developed a corporate plan that reflects our priorities and guiding principles. 'Our People Our Place Our Plan' outlines our aims and aspirations for the area, its people and how we commit to work for everyone, every day.

The plan is structured by life course – Starting Well, Living Well and Ageing Well, underpinned by the idea of ensuring that Tameside is a great place to live, work and has a vibrant economy. Within each life course we have identified a set of goals that set out what we want to achieve for people throughout their life.

The plan is supported by a list of our public service reform principles that define the ways we will achieve those goals. The principles are Greater Manchester wide ideas that we have adopted locally and will redefine our relationship with residents – doing with, not to.

Click [here](#) to view the 'Our People- Our Place- Our Plan' document.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Social Care face a number of significant challenges:

- The population is living longer with increasing complex needs.
- People deserve high quality and choice in the services they access.
- Retention and development of the Adult Social Care workforce.
- Uncertainty of long-term funding of Adult Social Care.

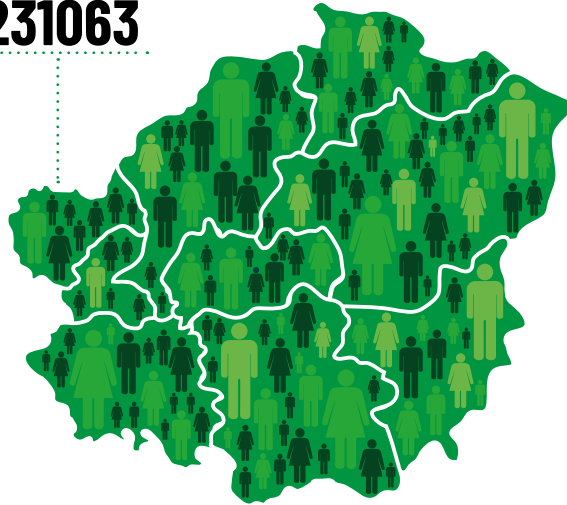
Tameside is not facing these challenges alone; our partners, providers, and other organisations are all confronting these and other challenges, and it is essential that we act collectively to deliver positive outcomes for our communities.

These challenges provide us with opportunities. Tameside is committed to an asset-based approach to commissioning working collaboratively with people in Tameside and providers to identify those assets valued by the community. There is an opportunity to develop a diverse and vibrant market together, that recognises assets, talents, and the aspirations of the population, working in partnership, sharing our challenges and co-producing outcomes. We will strive to create an environment where honesty and transparency fuels innovation and leads to joint solutions and shared outcomes.

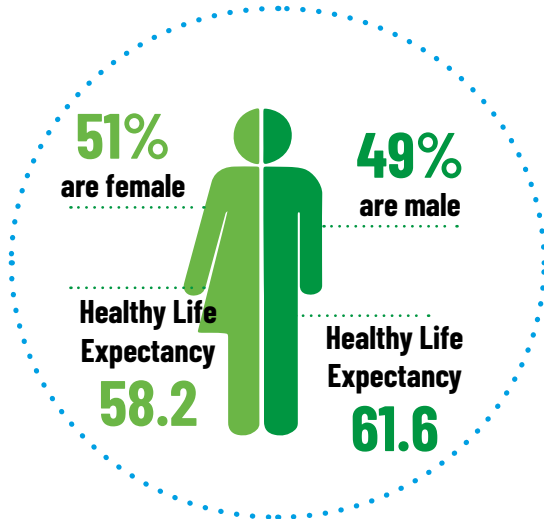
In overcoming both current and future challenges it is essential that services can flex to meet both changing demand and requirements. In doing so we will work with providers that are willing and able to react to these changes as required, and deliver the appropriate contracting arrangements to support this.

Tameside the Place

Population
231063



Age Group	Number	Percentage
0-17	51,193	22.2
18-64	139,361	60.3
65+	40,509	17.5



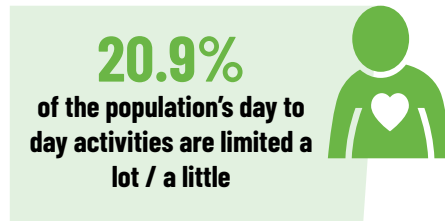
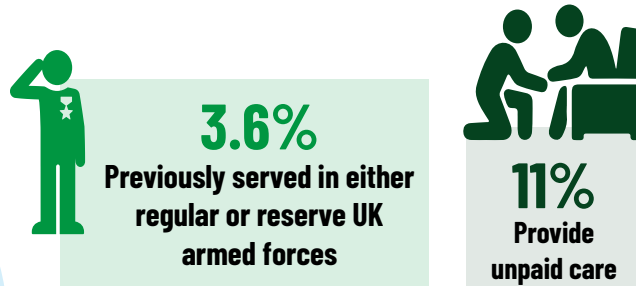
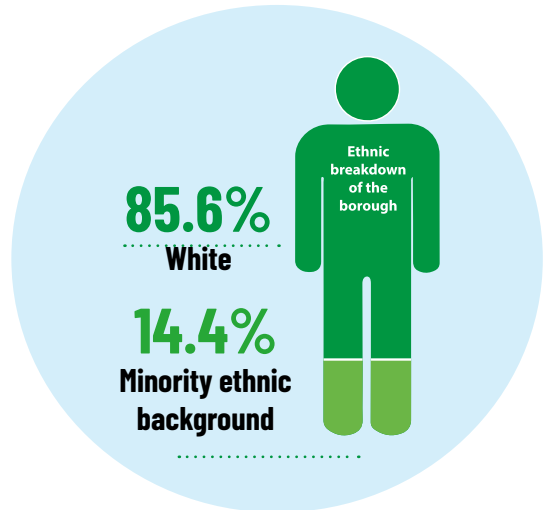
Ageing Population

65+ predicted to increase by **5.6%** by 2025 and by **15.8%** by 2030

Mental health

The estimated rate of common mental health disorders (e.g. depression and anxiety) in Tameside is **19.5%** for residents aged 16+ and **12.1%** for residents aged 65+

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In the Index of Multiple Deprivations (IMD) 2019, Tameside is ranked as the 28th most deprived of 317 Local Authority districts in England and the 5th most deprived in Greater Manchester.

Current 60+ population smaller than national average and statistical neighbours

But 50-59 group is larger suggests a growing older population but opportunities to target these groups for preventative interventions

In the next 20 years many of our older groups in the population will increase in size

Over 65s will increase by 20%

Over 80s will increase by 69%

Over 90s will increase by 92% (small numbers)

More of this growth is expected to be among males with smaller growth in females

In contrast to most age groups under 50 seeing only single-digit % increases

AGEING WELL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

	Based on Actual In Year Numbers				Based on Forward Predictions				
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Nursing	-18%	-26%	-30%	-31%	-25%	-14%	2%	23%	50%
Residential	0%	-3%	-13%	-19%	-22%	-27%	-32%	-37%	-42%
Direct Payment Online	-15%	-4%	-24%	-5%	-15%	-14%	-16%	-13%	-17%
Part Direct Payment	37%	47%	33%	30%	46%	39%	39%	44%	45%
CASSR Managed Budget	-4%	-3%	12%	14%	17%	21%	26%	30%	34%
Total	-4%	-5%	1%	0%	2%	4%	7%	11%	15%

OTHER FINDINGS

- A large proportion of older adults in Tameside live alone – which is associated with poorer outcomes
- Some older adults simultaneously experience a range of challenges (living alone; fuel poverty; income deprived)
- Older people in Tameside experience a range of inequalities – particularly women, people with LD & Autism, and people from ethnic minority communities – and some intersectionality (those experiencing all of the above!)
- Challenges accessing information on services (esp. with increased digitisation)
- Limited supported and flexible housing options
- People in Tameside face increasing difficulties engaging in work as they grow older
- Evidence of under-claiming of benefits and allowances for carers in Tameside
- Importance of transport to older people highlighted and particular challenges with transport links within the borough
- Higher prevalence of common mental health disorders among older adults in Tameside (which is often under-reported for this age group anyway)
- High excess winter death ratio in Tameside compared to statistical neighbours

For more detailed information please refer to The Ageing Well Needs assessment at: www.tameside.gov.uk

Adult Social Care Expenditure 2021/22

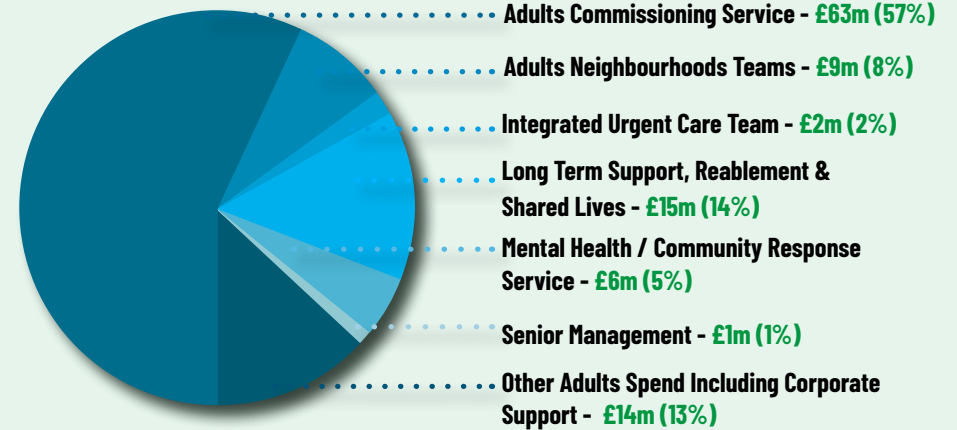
Total expenditure on Adult Social Care in 2021/22 £110m as per Revenue Outturn (RO) Return

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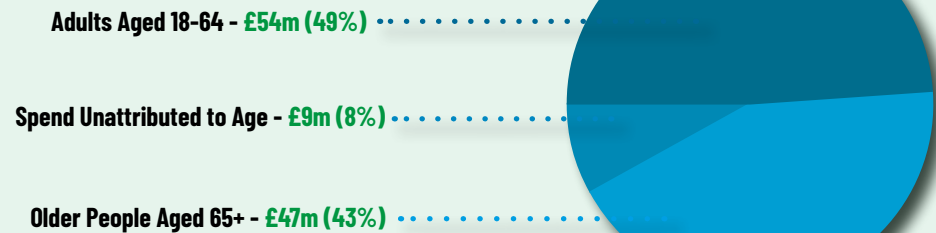
Tameside spent **£446.54** per head of population (18+) on adult social care, an increase of **19%** on the previous year.

3rd lowest spend per head of population (18+) amongst the NW authorities

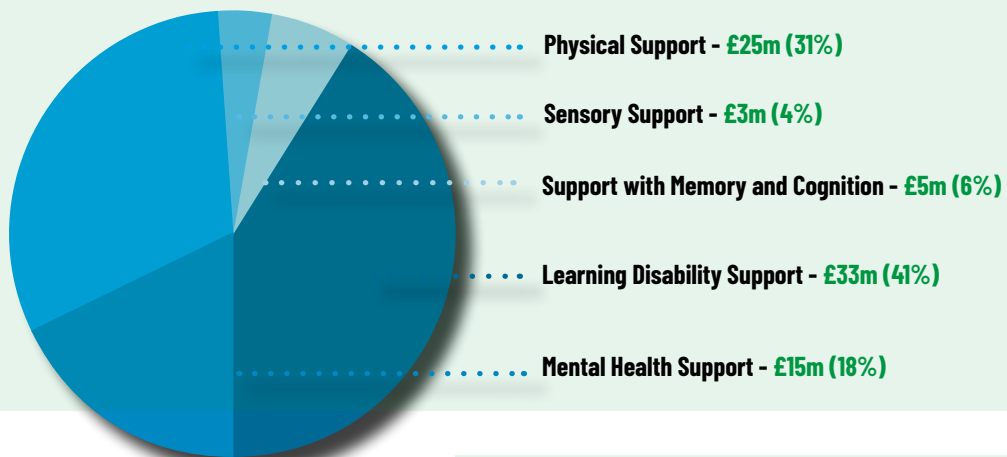
Expenditure by Service



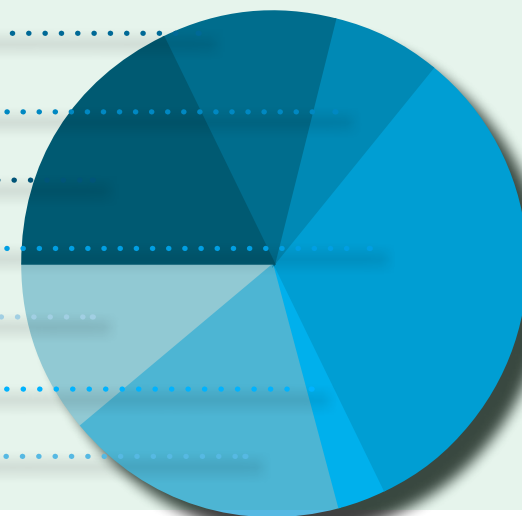
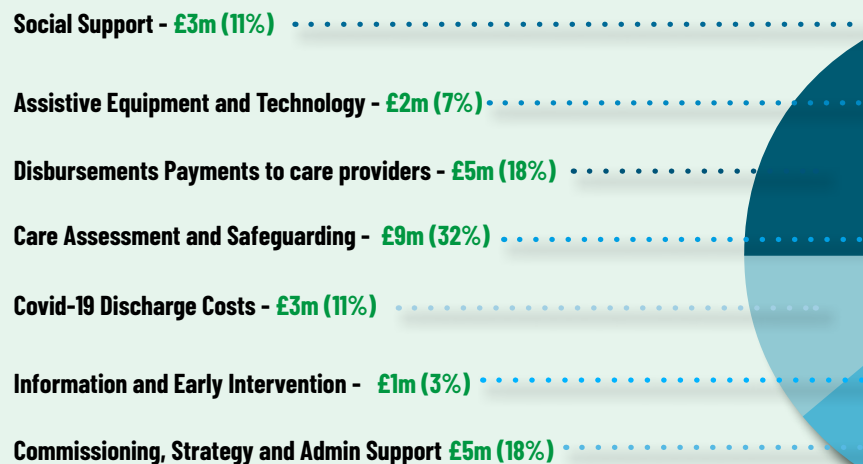
Expenditure by Age (Adults 18-64 vs Older People 65+)



Expenditure by Primary Need (£81m)



Expenditure by Secondary Need (£29m)



FUTURE DIRECTION IN TAMESIDE

Adult social care will continue to fulfil its obligations under the Care Act 2014 and focus on people's wellbeing and supporting them to live independently for as long as possible. Care and support will be centered on people's needs, giving them better care and more control over the care they receive, which in turn will also provide better support for carers.

The 10 Year Strategy – People at the Heart of Care presents a further opportunity to ensure that people requiring support live full and happy lives in their communities.

The approach therefore will be to ensure that people get the right level of support, at the right time and in the right place. The Council's continued focus on reablement will ensure that people are enabled to support themselves or be supported with reduced long-term input.

Whilst the focus is on reablement and supporting people to live independently as long as possible, it is recognised that there will always be a need for intensive social care support for those who are most vulnerable or need to be safeguarded. The Council will continue to ensure people are effectively supported and safeguarded and that the resources available to deliver social care support going forward are targeted on the most vulnerable.

There are a number of changes in society which present a case for change:

- People want access to support when they need it, expect it to be available to them quickly and easily, and anticipate it will fit into their lives.
- Demographic changes – increasing numbers of older people, including people with dementia, and people living longer with increasingly complex needs.
- A clear shift in policy from relying on services at a point of crisis to services which promote well-being and are preventative in nature.
- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way people access services this needs to be integral to the delivery of services.

LIVING WELL AT HOME COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS

Adult social care is committed to enabling people to remain well and living independently in their own homes and communities. People who, because of a general deterioration in health or a long term condition, need additional support, can expect a good quality service that is person centred and meets their needs and is available when and where it's needed.

For more information: www.tameside.gov.uk/livingwellathome

Tameside produces an annual Local Account of our adult social care performance. This review highlights the strengths of the services and support provided to our service users their family and carers, and our residents. The Local Account also acknowledges the continued work that needs to be undertaken to improve and innovate those services. The 2021/22 Local Account is available [here](#).

Adult Social Care produces an annual commissioning intentions report which is presented to Executive Cabinet for approval and sets out the details of each specific tendering activity which will take place for the forthcoming year. The approved commissioning intentions report for 2023/24 is available [here](#).

All procurement activity is undertaken with support from our partner STaR Procurement.

INFORMATION ADVICE & ADVOCACY

Information, advice and advocacy are essential for all adults and their relatives and carers who need, or may need, services and support in order to lead their lives.

Receiving the right information at the right time is an ongoing theme that Tameside continues to work to develop. Through a range of different options such as information networks, digital channels, service user forums, face to face, focus groups and user led organisations, we strive to ensure the development and access to quality information and advice is integral to all our provision of services.

Our information needs to be good-quality, in order to support help people to:

- access universal community options and more formal services;
- make informed decisions;
- play a full part in their community and society.

In Tameside information is provided by a range of bodies across the statutory and VCFSE sectors.

One of the White papers focus is to empower those who draw on care, unpaid carers and families by

- Improving information and advice
- Empowering unpaid carers
- Supporting autistic people and people with a disability into employment



It identifies that over the next three years the following three principles are to be central

- Everyone should be aware of basic information about adult social care and understand what they may be entitled to, what is available to them, and how to access that support.
- People should have access to personalised advice about adult social care when they need it.
- Information and advice services that empower people and enable them to make informed decisions.

The Making it Real framework sets out that good information and advice is about “having the information I need, when I need it”.

Information and advice services are currently delivered both locally and nationally by a range of different organisations. Nationally, resources are available that set out the basic facts about adult social care, and entitlements to care and support, which apply equally wherever people live (for example, the NHS social care and support guide). However, adult social care services are managed and delivered locally, and local authorities have duties under the Care Act 2014 to ensure that information and advice services are available to their local populations. Information and advice about where and how to access support is therefore best provided locally.

Tameside Council are building on and developing our information and advice in line with the White Paper recommendations.

Advocacy

Local authorities must involve people in decisions made about them and their care and support. The need for professional advocacy arises when people have no appropriate connections to family, friends or the wider community who can support them to have their voices heard.

Advocacy secures peoples rights, represent their interests and obtain services they need. Advocates and advocacy schemes work in partnership with the people they support and take their side. Advocacy promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice.

Advocacy Services are currently available in Tameside covering general advocacy and Independent Mental Health Advocate (IMHA) and Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA).

COMMISSIONING STATEMENT 1 - INFORMATION ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

The Council will immediately

Evaluate and review the existing provision of information and advice to ensure that demand for information and advice is met and that providers have the flexibility to meet fluctuating demand.

Evaluate and review existing services and explore with partners the option of a more integrated advocacy offer which ensures service users needs are met with the provision of excellent standards of care.

Support providers to ensure that the wider advocacy market is prepared for the introduction of the LPS.

Ensure that access to advocacy and information regarding services is available on all the different communication platforms across the borough in a more co-produced way.

The Council will in the medium term

Develop potential networks to meet a range of different service user information needs (including the Information Ambassadors Network, Tameside Autism Network, Partnership Boards etc.)

Build on existing developments to ensure that the user voice is integral to any future developments.

Evaluate the impact of the Mental Capacity Act on the volume of advocacy required to meet statutory duties.

Ensure that access to advocacy and information regarding services is available on all the different communication platforms across the borough in a more co-produced way.

The Council will in the long term

Work towards all communication channels being maximised to ensure timely information and links to advice are available in a range of accessible formats

Commission a solution that meets the demand and needs of the service users requiring advocacy services.

Develop systems to ensure that future demand is met and providers have the flexibility to meet fluctuating demands.

VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, FAITH & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (VCFSE) SECTOR

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A key theme in People at the Heart of Care is for Local Authorities to promote independence and enable people to live well as part of a community. In Tameside, we have a strong, diverse and vibrant VCFSE sector which is supported by a forward thinking innovative “umbrella” organisation Action Together. Core funding is made available to Action Together to support the delivery of their role as the only infrastructure support agency for the VCFSE sector in Tameside. The core aim of the offer from Action Together is to provide a comprehensive range of services to engage, encourage, develop, support and sustain the Voluntary and Community Sector in Tameside.

Our focus has always been on moving away from traditional statutory services to more innovative options for people to remain at home supported by their community. The VCFSE sector is integral to this in Tameside and our aim is to ensure alignment across the whole of the health, social care and community services to ensure that our community provision is sustainable, vibrant, accessible, co-produced and at the heart of the services we offer to our local population here in Tameside.



COMMISSIONING STATEMENT 2 – VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, FAITH AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTOR

The Council will immediately	The Council will in the medium term	The Council will in the long term
<p>Work with neighbourhoods and communities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand need/unmet need. • research and consult in terms of awareness of person centred approaches and co-production. • understand current access to services. • Ensure clear pathways for access to community services. • identify gaps in provision • market development/new opportunities. • provide support to smaller VCFSE organisations to develop as social enterprises. 	<p>Build on existing developments to ensure that the user voice is integral to any future developments.</p> <p>Develop training and support to VCFSE organisations to understand and firmly embed co-production and person centred practice.</p> <p>Ensure that pathways are reviewed and adapted in line with any developments in the sector.</p> <p>Develop clear alignment with neighbourhoods and social prescribing services to ensure a fully joined up approach.</p> <p>Develop Information Ambassadors Network as a consultation and information sharing tool.</p> <p>Ensure all Community Asset Transfer opportunities are identified and supported.</p> <p>Work with VCFSE sector organisations to support excellence through accreditation with Action Together and celebrate successes.</p>	<p>Building on current options develop a wide community offer.</p> <p>Raising awareness with all partners of the community offer and how people can access these options.</p> <p>Ensure funding opportunities are explored and maximised for the benefit of the VCFSE sector.</p> <p>Ongoing review of practices and partnership working to ensure services and the Tameside offer of support are joined up and meeting demand of people needing both statutory and universal support to remain living well at home.</p>

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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Support at home

Support at home covers both an enhanced model of support alongside a more standard “homecare” approach. The enhanced model

of support at home has been changing over the last few years in Adult Services in partnership with the contracted Support at Home

providers with a shared commitment to changing the way people are supported to live at home. Resources have been invested to ensure that people’s support is focussed on what really matters to them.

Whilst “Support at Home” continues to assist with the practical help that people need, the service has changed the way support is

provided; ensuring that the approach is strengths based, person centred and community focussed as well as providing practical support that enable people to live well in their own home. It is based on the premise that each person has inherent potential, is valuable, resourceful and can make a meaningful contribution to their wider community.

The model enables providers to recognise the importance of interdependence alongside independence and to support individuals to gain a sense of meaningful belonging in their networks and communities. Support is coproduced based on a collaborative relationship between the person needing support, their families, informal carers and the staff providing that support; putting the individual at the centre and, wherever possible and appropriate, exploring options that aren't necessarily just about paid support focussing on meeting individual outcomes. Providers base their approach on the following person-centred support sequence:

- How can you help yourself and how can family and friends help?
- What technology can we use to maximise your independence?
- How can we reconnect you with your local community?
- How can we support you at home?

Outcomes will be met via a combination of community based and/or unpaid/paid support and will:

- Ensure people achieve their vision of a 'good life';
- Reduce service reliance, loneliness and isolation;
- Connect communities and prioritise opportunities for people to maintain and build relationships with family and friends;
- Use and encourage community building.

Key developments over the last few years has seen the introduction of moving with dignity manual handling practice, a blended roles approach to low level health care support , and provider-led reviews that have moved the support role ever closer to a "trusted assessor" role.

Further to retendering in 2022 the current arrangement for provision is with four zoned providers delivering to designated areas covering twenty-nine postcodes across the Borough. In addition, a list of providers on the Flexible Purchasing system is also in place deliver standard homecare packages of care the zoned providers are not able to cover. The contracts include an extra care provision within four of the zoned areas. In addition, there is a dedicated single contract covering our four older people extra care schemes.

Key elements within contract arrangements will be workforce development, a commitment to further neighbourhood integration and digital inclusion. The blended roles approach to the provision of low level health care tasks will be comprehensively rolled out across the borough, providers will actively champion initiatives that support the emerging anticipatory care agenda and help people be more digitally literate, work with Tameside College will continue to develop and embed Level 2 and Level 3 apprenticeships designed to reflect support that helps people live well at home and practice that recognises the importance of anticipatory care will become standard for contracted providers.

MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY SERVICE

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An intrinsic element of community based support is to offer support to people recovering from mental ill-health. Offering a model based on the principles of recovery, reablement and rehabilitation, our aim is to ensure that people are provided with the opportunities and confidence to regain skills.

Integral to our community support offer in Tameside is promoting choice and control, working towards outcomes such as

- long term independence
- employment
- education
- social and physical activities
- building relationships that give purpose and meaning

Mental Health Recovery services will continue to work in partnership with "Support at Home" Providers and other stakeholders to support people who may need short term, sometimes more intensive support, to enable them to move onto more universal support at home and community services.

COMMISSIONING STATEMENT 3 - COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Council will immediately	The Council will in the medium term	The Council will in the long term
<p>The Council will manage the implementation of retendered six year support at home contract (including extra care) and a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) for non-zoned home care providers.</p>	<p>Ensure the contract and the five contracted providers are ready to commence service provision 1 June 2023. Continue to work with a range of stakeholders locally and GM wide to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement anticipatory care processes across the contract. • In partnership with Tameside College, further develop and roll-out L2 and L3 apprenticeships designed to reflect developments in homecare. • Work to tackle loneliness and social isolation. • Move to a position where providers have partial responsibility for manual handling assessments in the context of a system wide approach to manual handling that is based on moving with dignity techniques. • Fully embed the blended roles approach across all providers and a range of low level health care tasks. • Ensure contracted providers champion, promote and facilitate digital inclusion for people using the service. 	<p>In consultation with the contracted providers, develop and introduce a block payment model that ensures staff are paid on a shift basis, fully incorporating travel time and paid breaks, alongside, as standard, the offer of guaranteed hour's contracts.</p>

DAYTIME OFFER

Adult social cares daytime support offer continues the journey away from traditional, 'one-size fits all', often building-based, day services to provision that focuses on what people want to achieve and what they are good at whilst accessing resources within their local communities. Wherever possible this will have an employment focus, but always with the aim of providing support that helps people to find friendship groups and get involved in activities beneficial to their health and well-being; part and parcel of a personalised approach to all aspects of support using person-centred practices, based on building strong strength based communities where individuals enjoy their rights as valued and connected members of that community.

The vision is for a modern, comprehensive daytime support offer that will ensure:

- All young people experience a successful transition into adult service and understand what the Adults daytime support offer is to support their preparation and independence as they move into adulthood.
- The offer encompasses employment, vocational training, education, volunteering and a range of meaningful community-based activities.
- A focus on individual's strengths, choices, and aspirations building on skills development and increasing independence and resilience.
- There are viable in-borough options for all so that people only need use out-of-borough provision as a last resort.
- People coproducing their care and support plans are able to access/reconnect with activities in their local communities.
- Equal access to the digital world through accessible design and assistive technology.
- Support that enables carers to access support for their own health and well-being including employment and financial advice.

COMMISSIONING STATEMENT 4 - DAYTIME OFFER

The Council will immediately	The Council will in the medium term	The Council will in the long term
<p>Implement a new daytime approach with the focus on employment, education, universal community offer and commissioned day time offer.</p> <p>Embed the newly commissioned daytime offer with the lead provider.</p> <p>Support community organisations within the VCFSE sector to work in partnership with the Day time offer consortium.</p>	<p>Build on existing developments to ensure that the user voice is integral to any future developments.</p> <p>Further develop communication channels within the community to increase engagement with statutory service users.</p> <p>Working with the commissioned lead provider to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a range of daytime activities is offered which reflects peoples needs and wishes. • Ensure services are offered flexibly across seven days including evenings. • Facilitate people to experience the range of options available to facilitate choice. • Build on peoples strengths and support their move into universal community services, education and employment. • Enable new providers to join the consortium to widen the choice of options available based on peoples interests. <p>Develop and build on the current dementia offer.</p>	<p>Consider the appropriateness of current buildings within the Councils day time offer estate and look to develop new potential options.</p>

SUPPORTED LIVING

The White paper – People at the Heart of Care states

“

... ensuring that people receive the right care and support all begins with where they live, and the people they live with. For people of working age with a physical disability, a learning disability, autistic people, those with mental health conditions or substance misuse needs or those experiencing homelessness, a suitable home enables them to build and sustain their independence, connect with their community and achieve their ambitions. For older people, having a home that sustains safe, independent living can help prevent ill-health, reduce the amount of care and support they need, and delay or avoid altogether the need for residential care. ”

Our vision is to focus is on the development of a range of fit for purpose, bespoke high specification accommodation with quality support that will meet current and future predicted demand, and will enable people to live well at home, as independently as possible and have control of their lives and delivering the aspirations of the White Paper. For Tameside this will mean:

- Supporting people to live well at home for as long as they want to be there.
- Local people having a greater voice and more confidence in shaping where they live.
- People living as independently as possible.
- People co-produce how they are supported to meet their needs.
- People being in control of their lives.

- Fit for purpose and bespoke high quality accommodation.
- Supportive and connected services that help people to improve their lives.
- Technology being used to maximise independence.
- A workforce that is valued, highly trained and motivated to deliver a wide range of interventions.
- Strengthened working relationships with all stakeholders.
- Only in very exceptional circumstances will people be placed out of borough.

Tameside Adults Services have a range of supported living options currently available Extra Care

- Older People
- Physical Disabilities
- Learning Disabilities/Autism

24 Hour Supported Accommodation

- Learning Disabilities/Autism
- Mental Health

Research by the Housing LIN, commissioned by the Association of Directors of Adult Services (ADASS), included a housing census that has identified a broad client group living in over 2,400 units of supported accommodation across 150 schemes in Tameside. More importantly the research predicts that without growth in the current stock, there will be a shortfall of 866 units of accommodation with support by 2035.

It was identified that the growth in the number of people waiting for suitable supported accommodation would be set to continue if no further action was taken and so the expansion of stock is pivotal.

The Tameside Housing Strategy 2021-26 sets the vision and priorities to improve the borough's housing offer over the next 5 years. The strategy sets out a holistic approach, from bricks and mortar across the housing spectrum to meeting the needs of vulnerable people. The ambitions of this integrated housing strategy reflect the aspirations of the Council's Corporate Plan, 'Our People, Our Place, Our Plan'.

Tameside's Housing Strategy

Tameside in 2020 identified the following accommodation needs for Adult Services over the coming years. We are working with the Councils Registered Provider Partnership in delivering the accommodation required. This identified need and potential accommodation solutions are constantly being updated, the following table details that which was identified in 2020 and which has been delivered/ in process.

Type of Scheme	Approximate Number of Units	Type of Units	Delivered/In planning/to be identified
Housing Disabled Property (Bespoke Housing Solutions)	10	Mixed 3/4/5 Bed	1 developed 3 in planning 6 to be identified
Older People Extra Care	320	mixed 1/2 bed	1 x 91 unit in planning
Older People Extra Care / Nursing Home	100	mixed 1/2 bed	To be identified
Older Person Self-contained bungalows	50	2 Bed	10 In planning 40 to be identified
LD/MH self-contained apartments	120	Mixed 1/2 bed	28 delivered 89 in planning 3 to be identified
Houses for people with LD/Autism apartments	7	2/4 bed	To be identified

Where the accommodation has been identified, further work on the commissioning of the support service will be progressed in a timely manner.

COMMISSIONING STATEMENT 5 - SUPPORTED LIVING

The Council will immediately	The Council will in the medium term	The Council will in the long term
<p>Continue to strengthen the user voice through co production in the development of accommodation and support.</p> <p>Understand Adults services accommodation needs to meet current and future demand.</p> <p>Understand Adult services current accommodation stock what is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit for purpose • Adaptations required • Repurpose. <p>Identifying the gap in accommodation supply to meet future demand.</p> <p>Develop strong links and communication with key partners.</p>	<p>Continue updating the future need taking into account changing needs and improved intelligence.</p> <p>Work with the registered housing partnership to source appropriate accommodation to meet our identified need.</p> <p>To enhance the use of assistive technology in the development of accommodation that will support independent living and improve the quality of care and maximise independence.</p> <p>Work with support providers in effective commissioning, re-purposing or de-commissioning as necessary.</p> <p>Collaborate at GM level to look at cross cutting investments and contracts.</p>	<p>Continue updating the future need taking into account changing needs and improved intelligence.</p> <p>Develop a long-term accommodation pipeline and grow the range of fit for purpose bespoke high quality accommodation that supports people to live well at home.</p> <p>Work with all partners to co-produce future new accommodation that meets Adult services ambition for people.</p> <p>Develop accommodation pathways so that people have the ability to access the right level of support at the right time as their needs change.</p>

CARE HOMES

Whilst there's a recognition that the majority of people would like to be supported in their own homes, Care homes remain crucial in supporting people to live well. There are a number of individuals who either choose to enter 24-hour residential care, or whose needs can only be met in such a setting.

Tameside has a well-established market for residential and nursing homes for older people, which continues to be an important part of the care market. However, the market needs reshaping to meet the increasing complexity of the people entering care homes. In light of the increasing numbers of people residing in an expanded Extra Care offer (an additional 320 units are to be brought into operation over the next five years), it is clear that the use of long-term residential and nursing care will be for people with the most complex needs.

Working with the Council the care home sector need to move to the provision of a more specialist offer within care homes, with a greater focus on supporting people with dementia and challenging behaviour, and increasing the capacity in nursing care.



CARE HOMES

The Council will work closely with providers to ensure service users can remain supported and cared for by a consistent, competent and valued workforce in their chosen home without unnecessary visits to hospital.

In relation to future need we will require a diverse mix of services that can offer high quality residential and nursing care, and in the future we need:

- Less residential care placements, as people choose to explore alternative ways to meet their social care needs, such as Extra Care housing and Support in their Own Home.
- There will be a need to increase the focus on supporting people with dementia, particularly those who have complex needs, and who in addition may have behaviours which challenge.
- More residential placements for people with early onset dementia as the numbers of people with a diagnosis of dementia earlier on in their life is increasing.
- More providers who offer nursing placements for those with the highest level of need.
- More placements for people with multiple conditions, as people are living longer, they are living with more complex and multiple health conditions.
- More placements for older people who have a learning disability where their needs relating to their age are of primary importance.

In recognising these changes Tameside will commit to reviewing the current fee structure to better reflect individual needs throughout 2023/24.

COMMISSIONING STATEMENT 6 - CARE HOMES

The Council will immediately	The Council will in the medium term	The Council will in the long term
<p>Continue to support people and their families to find suitable residential and nursing care where this level of support is needed.</p> <p>Continue to work with the sector to ensure the delivery of high quality person centred care.</p> <p>Undertake a Fair Cost of Care exercise to determine appropriate fee rates</p> <p>Work with the local Integrated Care System to implement the Enhanced Health at Home offer within care homes (e.g. NEWS2/Restore2Mini, falls prevention, etc.)</p> <p>A revised residential and nursing home contract will be developed and commenced in 2023/24.</p> <p>Work with GMHSCP and their identified provider to develop a specialist dementia service.</p>	<p>Review and develop an improved contracts performance process, which strengthens the service user voice.</p> <p>Review individual fee structure to better reflect current needs.</p> <p>Understand future need with focus on improved data.</p> <p>Work with all stakeholders to co-produce service responses to better meet future need.</p> <p>Develop a consistent and integrated workforce training offer.</p> <p>Work with providers to ensure digital security and encourage full digitisation within the home.</p> <p>Work with provider to ensure they have the appropriate equipment to deliver care & support to more complex residents.</p>	<p>Work with all stakeholders to co-produce service responses to better meet future need.</p>

RESPITE CARE

Respite care provides short-term break for carers this can be for a few hours during the day or for several days or weeks.

Short term respite for a number of hours in the day is delivered via our support at home contracts, voluntary sector or daytime offer. Longer term options is delivered by our care home sector or our dedicated respite services for people with a learning disability or mental health.

Our Shared lives service detailed on Pg.45 also provides respite support.



COMMISSIONING STATEMENT 7 - CARE HOMES

The Council will immediately	The Council will in the medium term	The Council will in the long term
<p>Continue to support people and their families to access respite support when needed.</p> <p>Continue to work with the providers to ensure the delivery of high quality person centred respite care.</p>	<p>Undertake the tendering of the learning disabilities respite service for contract commencement 1 October 2023.</p> <p>Understand Adults services accommodation needs in relation to respite care to meet current and future demand.</p> <p>Work with key partners to source appropriate accommodation to meet our identified need.</p> <p>To enhance the use of assistive technology in the development of accommodation that will support independent living and improve the quality of care and maximise independence.</p>	<p>Work with all partners to co-produce future new accommodation that meets Adult services ambition for people.</p> <p>Develop the respite offer to ensure that people have the ability to access the right level of support at the right time as their needs change.</p>

OUT OF BOROUGH PLACEMENTS

Some of our service users live in 'out of borough' placements, which can be:

- through personal choice, as they want to live near their family and friends;
- due to specialist care needs or lack of suitable services in Tameside.

We aim to support people to live locally and always consider local options for them and only utilise a placement out of the borough in exceptional circumstances.

Out of borough care that is commissioned must meet the same standards that we expect from providers in Tameside and must focus on the outcomes for individuals. All placements are commissioned with pre-approved providers taking into account host Authority checks and CQC inspections – all placements are reviewed on a regular basis and services are being developed to support appropriate return to the borough where this is deemed in the individuals best interests.

Out of Borough placements link with Commissioning Statement 5.

Direct Payments

Direct Payments are payments provided by the council to enable individuals to buy the care and support services they need rather than having them arranged by the Council. To support people to continue to live well at home as independently as possible.

These payments are made directly to individuals (or someone on their behalf) who have been assessed as having eligible needs for social care and support.

Direct payments are an alternative to other Adult Social Care Services care provisions and are about empowering people to have more choice, take more control of their lives and to make more of the decisions that affect how they live.

A direct payment may be the right choice for an individual where an individual

- Wants greater control over who provides their care and support.
- Wants more choice and flexibility with care and support arrangements to implement a more individualised support package.
- Wants greater independence in managing their own care and support needs.

If an individual would like to explore the option of a Direct Payment they can contact the Adult Services Direct Payment Team.

[E-mail: directpaymentssectionmail@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:directpaymentssectionmail@tameside.gov.uk)

SHARED LIVES

Shared Lives, is a regulated form of social care delivered by Shared Lives Carers who are approved by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered scheme. The aim of Shared Lives is to offer people aged 18 years and older an alternative and highly flexible form of accommodation and support. Individuals who need support, and choose Shared Lives, are matched with compatible Shared Lives Carers who support and include the person in their Family and community life.

Service offered by Shared Lives

- **Long-term** - This service enables people to live with approved Shared Lives Carers on a long-term basis, sharing in the ordinary lifestyles of the carers and their families.
- **Interim** - A service user can live with a Shared Lives Carer for up to 12 months. These placements focus on promoting skills and independence, with a view to moving towards more independent living. There is the potential for interim placements to become long term placements after 12 months based on assessed needs.
- **Respite** - A service enabling users to take either regular short breaks or one off periods e.g. to allow for convalescence after a hospital stay or for family members to go on holiday or have a break from their caring role.
- **Day Support** - This is a flexible service enabling people to do activities of their choice, to use community facilities or to visit approved Shared Lives Carers in the carer's home.
- **Emergencies** - We may also be able to provide emergency respite placements, dependent on Carers available and the needs of the service user.

The service is always looking for people who are interested in becoming a shared lives carer you can contact the team on **0161 342 5151**.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT

The Integrated Community Equipment Service (ICES) offers a range of loan equipment to support the care needs and promote the independence and reablement of service users living in Tameside and enable timely discharge from hospital. The equipment that is available to people includes: grab rails, walking aids, beds, seating and bathing equipment.

Quality

The Council is clear that its role is to ensure that services delivered in Tameside are of a high quality, regardless of how they are funded. The Council will therefore continue to work closely with providers to improve and maintain the delivery high quality services.

The Council works with STaR procurement to procure and contract with providers who can deliver high quality services.

All Contracts include clear quality standards against which providers are performance monitored. Adults Services have a dedicated Quality Performance Team and Quality Improvement Team within the Commissioning Unit that work with Providers to ensure agreed quality is delivered. Performance management of the contract focuses on the delivery of outcomes and best practice in delivering person-centred care.

Adult Services utilise a number of approaches when monitoring quality performance:

- Service User and Carer consultation and feedback. Where possible, service users and their families and/or representative will be involved in evaluating and reporting their own experiences in a way that is meaningful to them.
- Announced and unannounced performance visits including observations - the focus is on ensuring the provider had the appropriate processes/procedure in place and is following good industry practice, as well as seeking the experience of service users to determine that their outcomes and needs are being met.
- Contract Performance Meetings.
- Annual performance reviews.
- Regular provider forums and registered managers meetings.
- Information from Complaints, Safeguarding and Whistleblowing.
- Working closely with CQC and other partner organisations.

Where quality issues have been identified Adult Services will work with providers in the following ways:

- Assisting in devising, delivering and monitoring service improvement plans.
- Offer support from the Quality Improvement Team who have a range of tools to enable providers to improve services.
- An Escalation and Accountability Framework has recently been introduced, which clearly sets out the response by Adult Services to concerns raised.
- Multi-disciplinary working across Health and Social Care to share appropriate information to identify areas of improvement.

As indicated above Adult Services will endeavour to support providers to improve services; however, where providers cannot achieve the right standards, Adult Services will work pro-actively with the provider to ensure that the services are transferred to an alternative qualified provider in a co-ordinated and timely manner, always ensuring the least disruption for people receiving support.

ROLE OF THE CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC)

The CQC visits all regulated care providers and gives a quality rating. This covers:

- Residential and Nursing homes.
- Domiciliary care providers including supported living.

To see the latest quality ratings for Tameside services (or other parts of the country), visit: www.cqc.org.uk

The Council has an excellent working relationship with the CQC and we will continue to work closely to ensure that all registered services are of the appropriate quality.

Get in touch with us

We recognise the importance of listening to not only the people who receive care but those who provide care too. Listening to everyone's voices ensures we deliver the best support for adults to live well independently at home or in residential care across Tameside.

We hope this document provides sufficient information to support your business decision making or to improve your services.

To raise any points for discussion, further enquiries or to express an interest in co-production please email commissioningteam@tameside.gov.uk



Report to: EXECUTIVE CABINET

Date: 27 September 2023

Executive Member: Councillor John Taylor – Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity)

Reporting Officer: Stephanie Butterworth, Director of Adult Services

Subject: **ADULT SERVICES COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS 2024 - 2025**

Report Summary: The report summarises the strategic commissioning plan of Adult Services outlining activity that will take place during 2024-2025 thus ensuring effective resource planning. This is to be achieved by executing the available contract extensions for a number of contracts whilst options appraisals are carried out to inform the future tender exercises.

In addition, we have a number of supported accommodation contracts which are due to expire between September 2023 and March 2025 and therefore we are seeking to align contract end dates via extensions to enable a review of our supported accommodation model prior to re-tendering those arrangements.

The report sets out specific details on the following service agreements:

Adult Services

- Community Response Service – Call Handling Service
- Provision of an integrated electronic staff monitoring and scheduling solution.
- Delivery of a Payroll Service for those receiving direct payments
- Care Act Support Partnership Arrangement to support VCFSE sector across Tameside
- Supported Accommodation
 - Provision for adults with a learning disability living in their own home
 - Intensive Community Based Support for people with a learning disability
 - Provision of respite service for adults with a learning disability

The Council are working with STAR procurement on all areas.

Recommendations: That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve:

Adult Services

- 1) Extend the current provision of a Community Response Service – Call Handling Service for seven months and six days from 25 February 2024 to 31 September 2024 and tender for the provision of a new contract for the contract period of six years to commence 1 October 2024 to 31 September 2030.
- 2) Tender for the provision of an integrated electronic staff monitoring and scheduling solution for a contract period

of five years and 24 days to commence 7 March 2024 to 31 March 2029.

- 3) Extend the current delivery of a Payroll Service for those receiving direct payments for the period of two years from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2026.
- 4) Extend the Care Act Support Partnership Agreement with Action Together to act as the local infrastructure organisation to the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE) for a period of three years to commence 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028.
- 5) Agree a review of all supported accommodation for people with a learning disability to take place whereby a refreshed model and permission to tender will be presented to Cabinet in July 2024.
- 6) Extend the following contracts included in the review of Supported Accommodation to enable the contract end dates be aligned:
 - a. Extend the current contract for the provision of the intensive community based support for people with a learning disability for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025
 - b. Extend the current contract for the provision of respite service for adults with a learning disability for a period of 18 months from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025
- 7) That permission is given for the Director of Adult Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity, to approve the contract awards following the tenders, subject to compliance with the Council's Procurement Standing Orders.

Financial Implications:

(Authorised by the statutory S
151 Officer & Chief Finance Of

Budget Allocation (if Investment Decision)	Funding for these services is currently aligned to the approved 23/24 budget within Adult's Social Care.
ICB or TMBC Budget Allocation	TMBC
Integrated Commissioning Fund Section – s75, Aligned, In-Collaboration	Section 75
Decision Body – Executive Cabinet, ICB Governing Body	Executive Cabinet

This report outlines commissioning intentions for the 2023/24, 2024/25 & 2025/26 financial year. The recommendations in this report are funded by both core Council funds (£1.790m), government grants (£0.183m) and Health funding (£0.471m), £2.444m in total. See appendix 1 for further detail on funding.

See below the financial implications for each of the schemes included in the report:

- Extend the current provision of a Community Response Service – Call Handling Service. The required budget is available for this scheme based on the information provided in section 2 of the report below and recommendations above.

-
- Tender for the provision of an integrated electronic staff monitoring and scheduling solution. There is a £0.005m budgetary pressure on the contract in 2023/24. Any re-tender for the service must ensure that there is sufficient budget in place as part of the tender process.
 - Extend the current delivery of a Payroll Service. The required budget is available for this scheme based on the information provided in section 4 of the report below and recommendations above.
 - Extend the Care Act Support Partnership Agreement with Action Together. The required budget is available for this scheme based on the information provided in section 5 of the report below and recommendations above.
 - Agree a review of all supported accommodation. There are no financial implications as part of this report as the recommendation is to agree a review of all supported accommodation for people with a learning disability. Any re-tender following the review of the service must ensure that there is sufficient budget in place as part of the tender process.
 - Extend the current contract for the provision of the intensive community based support. There is a £0.072m budgetary pressure on the contract in 2023/24. This was agreed as part of the Adult Social Care Fees 2023-24 report with mitigating actions included to offset the pressure. The service must ensure that there is sufficient budget or mitigations in place as part of any extension to the contract.
 - Extend the current contract for the provision of respite service for adults. There is a £0.017m budgetary pressure on the contract in 2023/24. This was agreed as part of the Adult Social Care Fees 2023-24 report with mitigating actions included to offset the pressure. The service must ensure that there is sufficient budget or mitigations in place as part of any extension to the contract.

As the policy implications below state, the commissioning intentions outlined in this report will have health and care benefits for the borough which should help reduce demand and financial pressures on Adults Services and also the wider care system.

The recommendations include the extension or re-tender of services funded through either grant or health funding. The service should ensure that appropriate break clauses are included within the commissioned contracts. This will ensure that the commissioned services can be withdrawn in the event that the external funding ceases or reduces to avoid any financial impact on the council.

Any uplift in commissioned contract values due to inflation or other reasons would need to be taken into account when commissioning contracts and ensure that there is sufficient funding available.

In addition, an Executive Decision will be required prior to award of the resultant contract. This is in accordance with the

value thresholds within the Council's Financial Regulations approved at full Council on 5 October 2021 – section 4 Procurement Decisions – Award Of New Contracts within the section headed 'Financial Delegations' refers.

The Council's Financial Regulations are available for reference via the following link. [Financial Regulations \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the Borough
Solicitor)**

The report sets out the commissioning intentions of Adult Services for activity planned for 2024 -2025. In order to carry out options appraisals and a review of the current model for supported accommodation, it is intended to extend current contracts allowing for contract end dates to be aligned, where necessary.

The service have sought advice from STAR Procurement on the modification of current contracts. Modification of contracts without undertaking a procurement process can only be undertaken in limited circumstances and need to be in accordance with Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which are replicated in the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Advice from STAR Procurement will also need to be sought throughout the procurement process to ensure compliance with procurement legislation, particularly as it is expected that the new procurement regime (outlined in the Procurement Bill) is likely to come in to force around October 2024.

Risk Management:

Risks will be identified and managed by the appropriate officers.

Access to Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writers Trevor Tench and Janine Byron



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report summarises the strategic commissioning for Adult Services outlining activity which will take place during 2024-2025 thus ensuring effective resource planning. This is to be achieved by executing the available contract extensions for a number of contracts whilst options appraisals are carried out to inform the future OJEU tender exercises.
- 1.2 In addition, we have a number of supported accommodation contracts which are due to expire between September 2023 and March 2025 and therefore we are seeking to align contract end dates via extensions to enable a review of our supported accommodation model prior to re-tendering those arrangements.
- 1.3 The report seeks authorisation to:
- 1) Extend the current provision of a Community Response Service – Call Handling Service for seven months and six days from 25 February 2024 to 31 September 2024 and tender for the provision of a new contract for the contract period of six years to commence 1 October 2024 to 31 September 2030.
 - 2) Tender for the provision of an integrated electronic staff monitoring and scheduling solution for a contract period of five years and 24 days to commence 7 March 2024 to 31 March 2029.
 - 3) Extend the current delivery of a Payroll Service for those receiving direct payments for the period of two years from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2026.
 - 4) Extend the Care Act Support Partnership Agreement with Action Together to act as the local infrastructure organisation to the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE) for a period of three years to commence 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028.
 - 5) Agree a review of all supported accommodation for people with a learning disability to take place whereby a refreshed model and permission to tender will be presented to Cabinet in July 2024.
 - 6) Extend the following contracts included in the review of all supported accommodation to enable the contract end dates be aligned:
 - a. Extend the current contract for the provision of the intensive community based support for people with a learning disability for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025
 - b. Extend the current contract for the provision of respite service for adults with a learning disability for a period of 18 months from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025
 - 7) That permission is given for the Director of Adult Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity, to approve the contract awards following the tenders, subject to compliance with the Council's Procurement Standing Orders.

2 EMERGENCY CONTROL AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE SERVICE – CALL HANDLING SYSTEM

- 2.1 The current contract delivered by Tunstall (PNC8 System) commenced 25 February 2018 for a period of six years. The contract is due to come to an end 24 February 2024. The total contract value for 2023/2024 is £0.025m. The Tunstall product relies heavily on analogue telephone technology – which is scheduled to be switched off at the end of 2025. Ahead of this deadline we must move our services to a digital solution.

Service Overview

- 2.2 Tameside Adult Services operates an in-house Community Response Service (CRS).
- Staff are employed to provide this service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
 - The service is available to the people of Tameside who are clients of the CRS.
 - The CRS Call Handling System receives approximately 16,000 alerts every month.
 - CRS customers range in age from 18 years, with no upper age limit. As at 31 July 2022

the service supported 2798 individuals, 77% of whom are aged 75+, to live independently within the community.

- The service is available to individuals residing in the borough of Tameside in; privately owned accommodation, rented accommodation, 24 hour residential/nursing care settings or 24 hour supported accommodation.
- The service has two contractual elements, a call handling system and equipment supplies.
- The service works in partnership with Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust's Digital Health Team.

Aims And Objectives

- 2.3 The focus of the service is very much a community offer based on early intervention and prevention. An average of 68% of CRS customers do not receive an assessed package of care, therefore, CRS is their only form of support and contact with services.
- CRS is key in reducing risk to some very vulnerable and frail older people in the community, and on reducing GP and A&E attendance. Key to this is the partnership work across the CRS and the Digital Health Service in Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust (ICFT). This means that Digital Health is available to CRS customers should they feel unwell in their own homes and require an assessment via digital platforms to a clinician at the hospital. Community response workers carry handheld tablets which enable a visual assessment by a clinician at the Digital Health Hub, and equipment to enable them to carry out a set of observations.
 - Having an equipment element to the overall delivery of the Community Response Service is paramount to supporting the prevention and early intervention element of health and social care services and cost avoidance of more costly services.
 - The Provider will, therefore, ensure that the call handling system is compatible with the existing telecare equipment to allow CRS to respond to the calls (initiated by the equipment) and support the Council to deliver targeted input.
- 2.4 The Council needs to ensure that it is ready for the Digital Switchover in 2025 and Adult Services will be working in partnership with the Councils IT colleagues to ensure the upcoming tender includes the required technical specifications. As a detailed analysis of requirements is needed, a project group is in place which includes Adults Head of Operations, Adults Commissioning Officer, Adults Service Unit Manager and Head of ICT Technical and Development to ascertain the technical ability needed to suit both Adults requirements and those of the Council.
- 2.6 To enable this appraisal to take place, permission is therefore sought to extend the current contract with the incumbent provider for seven months and six days from 25 February 2024 to 31 September 2024 to allow sufficient time to complete this work effectively and to re-tender for the provision of a new contract for the contract period of six years to commence 1 October 2024 to 31 September 2030.

3 PROVISION OF INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC HOME CARE MONITORING AND SCHEDULING SOLUTION

- 3.1 The current contract delivered by HAS Technology Limited commenced on 7 March 2019 for a period of five years and ends on 6 March 2024.
- 3.2 The total contract value for 2023/2024 is £0.036m it is expected for increased functionality there will be additional costs.
- 3.3 **Service Overview**
- The current system provides rostering support to three teams within Adult Services, namely; Long Term Support; the Community Response Service and Reablement.
 - The current system can support the following functions:
 - Location of staff

- Hours of staff working
- Recording of contracted hours; overtime hours; sickness and annual leave
- Staff information: name; address; contact details etc
- Production of reports for Payroll
- Recording of outcomes
- Support to individuals provided
- Medication administered.

3.4 Aims and Objectives

- To deliver a scheduling solution to enable the Council's Community Response Team to manage a staff team of approx. 32 people. The system must hold all staffing information related to this team including rotas, training, sickness, annual leave, contracted and other hours worked.
 - To allow staffing information to be extracted for use within other systems such as payroll.
 - To allow access for staff to manage staff and produce reports from a PC via a web based interface.
 - To provide relevant training to allow staff to disseminate to colleagues.
 - To deliver a scheduling solution to enable the Council's Long Term Support Team to manage a staff team of approx. 340 people (including agency staff).
 - To deliver a scheduling solution to enable the Council to manage the staff team. The system must hold all staffing information related to this team including rotas, training, sickness, annual leave, contracted and other hours worked (i.e. day hours, night hours, overtime, plain time, sleep ins) and different job codes (managers/seniors/support workers/ day services staff/ permanent /casual).
 - To provide a scheduling and homecare monitoring system to the Councils Reablement Team to manage approx. 120 staff who support between approx.120-140 people at any one time.
- 3.5 To provide a system which will provide an effective means of tracking staff as they attend appointments, registering when the staff member has attended and left a call and highlight missed calls. Staff must be able to use their mobile device to be alerted to changes in their allocated work and obtain directions to their planned calls.
- 3.6 Adults Services will complete a full review of the requirements for a new rostering and monitoring system prior to commencing procurement, to ensure that the service continues to meet the needs of the various teams and any identified developments and/or improvements will be implemented and reflected in the design of the new service specifications prior to tender. This will include representation from the Councils Central IT Service and Adults Systems Team to ensure compliance with corporate systems and the newly purchased ContrOCC system.
- 3.7 Approval is sought for Adult Services to work closely with STAR Procurement to undertake an appraisal of the procurement options available and permission is therefore sought to tender the service with a view to awarding the contract to commence no later than 7 March 2024 with a new contract for five years and 24 days to end on 31 March 2029 with an option to extend for a further two years.

4 DIRECT PAYMENTS SUPPORT SERVICE

- 4.1 The current contract commenced 1 November 2022 for a period of two years to 31 October 2024, with an option to extend for two years and one year thereafter, should the contract remain competitive in terms of quality and price.
- 4.2 The total contract value for 2023/2024 is £0.086m
- 4.3 The initial two year contract is due to come to an end 31 October 2024.

4.4 Service Overview

- TMBC is committed to the provision of high-quality services to enable people to have maximum control over their own care and support and achieve the best outcomes in their everyday lives.
- Direct Payments are an alternative to traditional care and support services. The Council provides cash payments for individuals to purchase services that meet their assessed care needs. This gives the person receiving services more choice and control over how their care needs are met.
- Recipients of Direct Payments can choose to employ their own care workers known as Personal Assistants (PAs) or to buy services from a provider or a mixture of the two.
- In providing Direct Payments, local authorities are also expected to provide a service to support those who need assistance in managing their Direct Payments.
- Currently the service support 45 adults with a standard payroll account; 128 adults with a managed account with payroll and 89 adults with a managed account without payroll.

4.5 Aims and Objectives

- The Provider will deliver the following services:
 - Standard Payroll service
 - Managed Accounts service with Payroll
 - Managed Accounts service without Payroll
- The service provides a high-quality advisory and practical support service to individuals and their carers to manage their Direct Payment and continue to live in their own homes in safety and comfort and maintain their independence and dignity.

4.6 Adults Services will complete a full review of the Direct Payment Support provision to ensure that the service continues to meet the needs of the local population.

4.7 Approval is therefore sought for Adult Services to work closely with STAR Procurement to review the existing provision, with a view to invoking the two year extension clause in the contract to commence 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2026.

5 ACTION TOGETHER CORE FUNDING – VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, FAITH AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTOR (VCFSE)

5.1 The current Partnership Agreement with Action Together for the delivery of support to the development of the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Sector in Tameside commenced on 1 April 2019 for a period of three years to 31 March 2022 with an option to extend for a further three years. This extension was invoked on 1 April 2022 with the contract due to come to an end on 31 March 2025.

5.2 The Joint Health & Wellbeing and Locality Plan 2023 – 2028 for Tameside sets out the ambitions for improving the health of Tameside residents and reducing the inequalities many communities in Tameside experience. To achieve this, a strong and effective partnership including the Council, the NHS and the VCFSE sector is needed to deliver the ambitions of the plan, particularly in terms of prevention

5.3 The total contract value for 2023/2024 is £0.173m which is funded as follows:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| • Adult Social Care | - | £ 0.089m |
| • Population Health | - | £ 0.045m |
| • GM Integrated Care (Tameside) | - | £ 0.039m |

5.4 The Council has a longstanding and positive working relationship with the voluntary sector and Action Together. Historically, the Council has supported Action Together with core funding to support the delivery of their roles as the only infrastructure support agency for the VCFSE sector in Tameside.

5.5 The 'core infrastructure offer' is funded by both the Council, GM Integrated Care (Tameside)

and Population Health. The core aims of the offer are to provide a comprehensive range of services to engage, encourage, develop, support and sustain the VCFSE Sector in Tameside.

5.6 Action Together have continued to develop the delivery of the overall aims throughout the life of the agreement and have supported the Council's Corporate Plan in relation to Starting Well, Living Well and Ageing Well.

Aims and Objectives

- To support the development of the VCFSE Sector in Tameside.
- To provide support to the VCFSE sector which will improve the functioning and develop the capacity of local VCFSE groups and organisations.
- To provide and maintain links across the VCFSE, Statutory and Independent/Private sectors.
- To represent the diverse views of the local VCFSE sector in Tameside.
- To ensure strategic partnership working between sectors.
- To provide and support volunteering opportunities and services.

5.7 One of the key aspects of the VCFSE sector's role in providing services in the local community is that often people who receive statutory support are involved and integral to the running of the community services. VCFSE services are often very informal and do not tend to deter members of the public because of any perceived official status. Services are flexible, innovative and can easily respond to identified need in the community.

5.8 The VCFSE sector is crucial in supporting the Council in meeting its statutory responsibilities, in relation to its prevention duties, including information and advice; market shaping and carers. This in turn supports the Council to meet its obligations as outlined in the Government Strategy "People at the Heart of Care – Adult Social Care 10 Year Strategy".

5.9 Given that the Council continues to face significant budgetary challenges over the coming years, a quality VCFSE sector is critical in supporting the Council to deliver savings and provide additional support and capacity to ensure people are able to live well at home. The partnership between the Council and Action Together will support these challenges in driving significant sustainable growth of voluntary organisations operating in the borough, providing essential support to a wide variety of user groups both above and below threshold, as well as supporting the growth and support of volunteering opportunities.

5.10 Adults Services will complete a full review of the delivery of support to the local VCFSE sector in partnership with key stakeholders including Population Health to ensure that the service continues to meet the needs of the local population and continues to be aligned to the commitments within Tameside Council Corporate and Locality Plan's.

5.11 Approval is therefore sought for Adult Services to work closely with STAR Procurement to review the existing provision, with a view to entering into a new Partnership Agreement with Action Together to commence 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028 with an option to extend for a further three years.

6. SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY LIVING IN THEIR OWN HOME

6.1 The current contract commenced 1 April 2020 for a period of five years and is due to come to an end on 31 March 2025. This contracted provision comprises of five lots, designated as Contract Area 1 (provided by Turning Point), Contract Area 2 (provided by Community Integrated Care) Contract Area 3 (provided by Creative Support), Contract Area 4 (provided by Creative Support) and Contract Area 5 (provided by Community Integrated Care).

6.2 The total contract value for 2023/2024 is £10.399m.

- Contract Area 1: £2.649m
- Contract Area 2: £1.645m
- Contract Area 3: £2.156m
- Contract Area 4: £2.439m
- Contract Area 5: £1.510m

6.3 Service Overview

- The service will be provided for individuals in Tameside with a learning disability who are 18 years or over and are eligible for care and support in line with the Care Act 2014.
- The service provides long term tenancies and will be available 365 days per year with access to 24-hour support.
- The service will deliver support in accordance with the assessment of need and identified outcomes. In addition, the Provider will develop a person-centred support plan that forms the basis of their support to the individual and describes how the agreed outcomes are to be delivered. Where appropriate, this will be written in consultation with the individual's family members and advocates.
- The individual's person-centred support plan will form the basis for evaluating the level of quality delivered for this Service.
- The service will be flexible and innovative ensuring that it can adapt to a variety of approaches depending on the individuals changing level of needs, outcomes, and personal choice.

6.4 Aims and Objectives

- The service aims to enable individuals to live as independent and fulfilling a life as is possible within their own home and local community.
- The service will be delivered using person centred approaches and principles that promotes an individual's assets, wishes and aspirations.
- The support delivered will enable individuals to achieve their full potential through more opportunities to progress, develop new skills and become less dependent on support in the future.
- The service will have a focus on actively promoting independence and social inclusion pathways that support individuals to feel valued within their local community.
- The service will deliver support that promotes a culture of personal growth and development, as follows:
 - To enable individuals to identify their personal goals and have choice and control over how they are supported to achieve them.
 - To maintain and develop support networks.
 - To support people to explore and take up meaningful social, leisure, learning, development, and work opportunities.

6.5 Adults Services aim to complete a full review of all the current contracts for supported accommodation for adults with a learning disability living in their own home prior to commencing procurement, to ensure that the services continue to meet the needs of the local population and any identified developments and/or improvements will be implemented and reflected in the design of the new service specifications prior to tender. This review will include the Intensive Community Based Support contract as detailed in Section 7 of this report, together with the Learning Disability Respite Service contract as detailed in Section 8 of this report. Contract extension requests have been made in this report to align the contract end dates for the three contracts which will enable the review to take place. This review will include participation from current individuals and carers to ensure the co-production of the service specification and procurement process.

6.6 This approach will allow for a full review of all building based care and support contracts to be reviewed collectively and a refreshed model including alternative options and procurement approval will be presented to the Executive Cabinet in July 2024.

6.7 It is also requested that Executive Cabinet note that following the aforementioned review of the supported accommodation contracts the aim will be to re-tender within the 2024/2025 financial year for the new service with a view to awarding the revised contract to commence no later than 1 April 2025 with a new contract for five years to end on 31 March 2030 with an option to extend for a further two years.

7. INTENSIVE COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

7.1 The current contract delivered by Creative Support commenced 1 April 2017 for a period of five years with an option to extend for a further two years. The contract is due to come to an end 31 March 2024. The contract value for 2023/2024 is £1.140m.

7.2 Service Overview

- Provision of a 24 hour a day, 365 days per year supported accommodation service delivered across two sites in the borough of Tameside, to adults with learning disabilities, autism, or both.
- Accommodation sites include:
 - Werneth House, Market Street, Hyde, SK14 1HE (five tenancies)
 - Sycamore Court, Sand Street, Stalybridge, SK15 1UD (seven tenancies)
- The accommodation is provided in a community setting by a registered social landlord and there are separate contractual arrangements in place for the provision of the accommodation.
- Individuals are supported holistically, with high levels of understanding of the challenges of living with a learning disability, which will include support to meet emotional, mental health and physical needs.
- The service provides alternative long term tenancies for individuals who may already be placed in secure services outside of the borough and prevent the admission of others into out of borough services.
- Some Individuals may be living at the service under the terms subject to after-care/supervision under the Mental Health Act (e.g. Guardianship or Community Treatment Orders).
- Individuals are likely to have been assessed as presenting a higher degree of risk to the public, staff or other supported individuals, needing therapeutic intervention by a multidisciplinary team, providing varying levels of positive behaviour support and risk management.
- The current indicative number of daytime support hours for the delivery of this service (across both sites) is 1075 per week.
- In addition, there is one sleep-in and one waking night provided at each site per night.

7.3 Aims and Objectives

- To deliver a community based intensive support service that is person centred to individual needs.
- To focus on actively promoting independence pathways that support move on whilst recognising an individual's risks.
- To respond with appropriate interventions and strategies, as part of a multidisciplinary approach in providing positive behaviour support and, risk management in line with an individual's person-centred plan.
- To promote a culture of personal growth and development for each individual as follows:
 - To enable individuals to identify their personal goals and have choice and control over how they are supported to achieve them.
 - To support individuals to maintain and develop skills to live as independently as

- possible within their own community and to perform functional and meaningful activities with whatever assistance is required.
- To promote community presence through the experience of visiting, belonging, sharing, and using the facilities available.
- To maintain and develop support networks.
- To enable individuals to participate in their local community and form valued roles and relationships.
- To support people to explore and take up meaningful social, leisure, learning, development, and work opportunities.
- To promote a reduction in the need for physical intervention and/or restrictive practice through positive behaviour support and physical intervention care plan.

7.4 Service Proposal

Adult Services, in line with its review of the current provision of accommodation in the borough and programme of resettlement is anticipating increasing the number of properties available to support adults with a learning disability and/or autism who require 24 hour supported accommodation. In relation to this contract, plans are being advanced to resettle two people with complex needs into two new properties in Hattersley which we expect to be completed in the summer of 2024. The plan is, given the needs of the two people identified, for their care and support to be appropriately met by the service offered within this contract. It is therefore proposed that the additional support is commissioned as part of this overall tender.

7.5 As detailed in section 6.5 of the report, Adults Services will complete a full review of the supported accommodation in the borough which will include the Intensive Community Based Support service to ensure that the service continues to meet the needs of the local population and any identified developments and improvements will be implemented and reflected in the design of the new service specifications.

7.6 Approval is sought for Adult Services to work closely with STAR Procurement to undertake an appraisal of the procurement options and, permission is therefore sought to extend the existing contract for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 in line with the review identified above in Section 6.5 of this report

7.7 This approach will allow for a full review of all building based care and support contracts to be reviewed collectively and a refreshed model including alternative options and procurement approval will be presented to the Executive Cabinet in July 2024.

7.8 It is also requested that Executive Cabinet note that following the aforementioned review of the supported accommodation contracts the aim will be to re-tender within the 2024/2025 financial year for the new service with a view to awarding the revised contract to commence no later than 1 April 2025 with a new contract for five years to end on 31 March 2030 with an option to extend for a further two years.

8 PROVISION OF RESPITE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

8.1 The current contract delivered by Community Integrated Care commenced 1 October 2018 for a period of five years and is due to come to an end 30 September 2023.

8.2 The contract value for 2023/2024 is £0.277m.

8.3 Service Overview

- A building based short term planned respite provision for adults with a learning disability.
- The service will deliver support to individuals with a range of mild, moderate and complex learning disabilities and additional needs.

- The building base, 1 Cumberland Street, Stalybridge, SK15 1LS, is provided by a registered social landlord via a management agreement with Tameside MBC.

8.4 **Aims and Objectives**

- To provide access to 24 hour support within a shared accommodation environment for individuals who for the majority of the time reside in the parental/family home.
 - To deliver a service that will adopt an outcomes focused approach to the provision of support in reflecting individual's lifestyles, skills, aspirations and interests. The service will facilitate opportunities for individuals to engage in purposeful activity, meaningful relationships and inclusion within the community. The service will be flexible, responsive, innovative and tailored to personal need.
 - The Provider will ensure a model of care and support that understands the differing levels of need of the individual, such as those with a mild to moderate learning disability, physical disability, behaviours that challenge, autism and health needs. The service will also offer an enabling environment for individuals, thus giving people more opportunities to progress with a view to becoming less dependent on support in the future.
 - The service will support positive risk taking and least restrictive practices in individuals' daily lives that is personally meaningful and takes into consideration best interest decision making.
 - The service will be provided for people of Tameside who are eighteen years or over and have been assessed by the commissioner as requiring the service in accordance with its eligibility criteria.
 - The Provider will deliver appropriate staffing levels for one property providing short stay/respite for up to four individuals at one time, plus one emergency placement.
 - The service will be delivered flexibly and responsively 365 days per year, 24 hours per day and will be inclusive of one waking night.
 - In providing a responsive and flexible service, the provider will allow for individuals changing and diverse needs and demand for the service including the emergency placement. The Provider will manage this delivery within the maximum budget specified within this contract.
 - The service currently provides four short term respite beds and one emergency bed. A review of the provision will include an analysis of the projected need and will be determined by the ongoing links with the Transitions Team, the Accommodation Options Group and the Homes for All Team.
- 8.5 As detailed in section 6.5 of this report, Adults Services will complete a full review of the supported accommodation in the borough which will include the provision of respite services for people with a learning disability to ensure that the service continues to meet the needs of the local population and any identified developments and improvements will be implemented and reflected in the design of the new service specifications.
- 8.6 The current building base, 1 Cumberland Street, Stalybridge, SK15 1LS, which is provided by a registered social landlord via a management agreement with TMBC is also being reviewed by Adult Services due to growing concerns regarding the suitability of the property and an alternative property may need to be sourced.
- 8.7 Approval is sought for Adult Services to work closely with STAR Procurement to undertake an appraisal of the procurement options and permission is therefore sought to extend the existing contract for a period of 18 months from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025 in line with the review identified above in Section 6.5 of this report.

- 8.8 This approach will allow for a full review of all building based care and support contracts to be reviewed collectively and a refreshed model including alternative options and procurement approval will be presented to the Executive Cabinet in July 2024.
- 8.9 It is also requested that Executive Cabinet note that following the aforementioned review of the supported accommodation contracts the aim will be to re-tender within the 2024/2025 financial year for the new service with a view to awarding the revised contract to commence no later than 1 April 2025 with a new contract for five years to end on 31 March 2030 with an option to extend for a further two years.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 This report seeks approval to progress the contract requirements as noted above enabling further option appraisals to be carried out prior to agreeing the subsequent tender exercises. This ensures the Council continues to meet its statutory obligations for Adult Social Care.

10. RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 As set out at the front of the report.

APPENDIX 1

Recommendation	PROPOSED 2023/24 SPEND (£m)	PROPOSED 2024/25 SPEND (£m)	PROPOSED FUTURE YEAR SPEND (£m)	PROPOSED CUMULATIVE YEAR SPEND (£m)	Annual Budget (£m)	Cost Centre	Funding Source
EMERGENCY CONTROL AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE SERVICE – CALL HANDLING SYSTEM	£0.002	£0.013	£0.000	£0.015	£0.025	SW754200	Core Funding
PROVISION OF INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC HOME CARE MONITORING AND SCHEDULING SOLUTION	£0.003	£0.036	£0.144	£0.183	£0.031	SD711600	Grant Funded (Better Care Fund)
DIRECT PAYMENTS SUPPORT SERVICE	£0.000	£0.036	£0.136	£0.172	£0.086	SP804598	Core Funding
ACTION TOGETHER CORE FUNDING (VCFSE)	£0.000	£0.000	£0.402	£0.402	£0.134	SK104300	Core Funding
	£0.000	£0.000	£0.117	£0.117	£0.039	SK104300	Health Funding
SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY	£0.000	£0.000	£0.000	£0.000	£9.637	SM600900 SM601000 SM604500 SM604600 SM604700	Core Funding
INTENSIVE COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY	£0.000	£0.786	£0.000	£0.786	£0.714	SM600301	Core Funding
	£0.000	£0.354	£0.000	£0.354	£0.354	SM600301	Health Funding
PROVISION OF RESPITE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY	£0.139	£0.277	£0.000	£0.416	£0.260	SM600100	Core Funding
Total	£0.144	£1.501	£0.799	£2.444	£11.280		

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Agenda Item 9

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	27 September 2023
Executive Member:	Councillor J North, First Deputy – Finance, Resources and Transformation
Reporting Officer:	Ilys Cookson – Assistant Director Exchequer Services
Subject:	HOUSING BENEFIT MODIFIED SCHEME
Report Summary:	<p>The Council administers Housing Benefit for the Department of Work and Pensions in accordance with legislation. Section 134(8)(a) of The Social Security Administration Act 1992 allows authorities to modify the Housing Benefit scheme, the cost of which is met by the Council.</p> <p>The Council has modified the scheme for many years to offer additional protection to residents in receipt of any prescribed war disablement pension or prescribed war widow's pension. The report seeks clarification that the Modified Scheme should continue.</p>
Recommendations:	Executive Cabinet APPROVES continuation with the Modified Scheme for Housing Benefit as detailed in Section 2 of this report for a 12 month period.
Corporate Plan:	The report supports the 'Nurturing our Communities' and 'Live Longer and Healthier Lives' Corporate Plan priority themes.
Policy Implications:	The Modified Scheme supports Tameside's Armed Forces Covenant by providing additional assistance with housing rental costs.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>The Council has an approved budget for Housing Benefit as part of the General Fund. For 2023/24 the net budget is a credit of £0.293m, i.e., the Council plans to receive government grant and overpayments to a larger value than it will expend in resources.</p> <p>Within this budget is an allowance for the cost of the Modified Scheme.</p> <p>The Council receives an annual subsidy amount from the DWP capped at 75% of the total cost to the council. The table overleaf outlines the position from 2018/19 to 2023/24 including the subsidy payable.</p> <p>The Housing Benefit caseload and expenditure is reducing due to the migration of working age claims to Universal Credit, which is administered by the DWP. An additional factor to the reduction in cost for the Modified Scheme is that claimant's receiving prescribed war disablement pension or prescribed war widow's pension are sadly passing away. The current caseload for which the Modified Scheme applies is 11 claims.</p> <p>There will come a point in time where the modification to the Housing Benefit scheme will no longer be required, either through eligible residents passing away or transferring from Housing Benefit to Universal Credit. Consideration for this will need to be considered</p>

for budget setting purposes through the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

Table 1: Cost of Modified Scheme for Tameside:

Audited Final Subsidy Claim for Housing Benefit				
£m				
Year	Final Subsidy Claim	Modified Scheme	DWP Contribution	Cost to the Council
2018 / 2019	71.897	0.051	0.038	0.013
2019 / 2020	62.192	0.068	0.051	0.017
2020 / 2021	57.569	0.031	0.023	0.008
2021 / 2022	53.609	0.024	0.018	0.006
2022 / 2023*	55.086	0.028	0.021	0.007
2023 / 2024	52.857	0.027	0.020	0.007

* Awaiting final confirmation from external auditors.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the
Borough Solicitor)**

Local authorities administer Housing Benefit on behalf of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) in accordance with the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 and the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

The provisions for entitlement to Housing Benefit are contained in two sets of legislation. For working age claimants, the conditions to be satisfied are contained in The Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 and for pension age claimants The Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit) Regulations 2006.

Section 134(8)(a) of The Social Security Administration Act 1992 states:

An authority may modify any part of the Housing Benefit scheme administered by the authority;

(a) so as to provide for disregarding, in determining a person's income (whether he is the occupier of a dwelling or any other person whose income falls to be aggregated with that of the occupier of a dwelling), the whole or part of any prescribed war disablement pension or prescribed war widow's pension payable to that person;

(b) to such other extent in other respects as may be prescribed, and any such modifications may be adopted by resolution of an authority.

The Council has modified the scheme for many years to offer additional protection to residents in receipt of any prescribed war disablement pension or prescribed war widow's pension, which is in line with statute.

Risk Management:

Risk Assurance is set out in section 5 of this report.

Access to Information:

Further information is available from Ilys Cookson, Assistant Director Exchequer Services.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Ilys Cookson Assistant Director Exchequer Services



Telephone: 0161 342 4056



e-mail: ilyc.cookson@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Local authorities administer Housing Benefit on behalf of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).
- 1.2 Section 134(8)(a) of The Social Security Administration Act 1992 states:
An authority may modify any part of the Housing Benefit scheme administered by the authority;
(a) so as to provide for disregarding, in determining a person's income (whether he is the occupier of a dwelling or any other person whose income falls to be aggregated with that of the occupier of a dwelling), the whole or part of any prescribed war disablement pension or prescribed war widow's pension payable to that person;
(b) to such other extent in other respects as may be prescribed,
and any such modifications may be adopted by resolution of an authority.
- 1.3 The Council has modified the scheme for many years to offer additional protection to residents in receipt of any prescribed war disablement pension or prescribed war widow's pension.

2. HOUSING BENEFIT FUNDING

- 2.1 The Council is reimbursed by the DWP for the expenditure for Housing Benefit. The funding provided to pay Housing Benefit is called subsidy.
- 2.2 At the beginning of each financial year the Council submit the estimated cost of Housing Benefit to the DWP. Based on this information the DWP make a monthly payment to the Council.
- 2.3 At the end of each financial year, a final claim is made to the DWP for the actual amount of Housing Benefit expenditure made during the past year. The Housing Benefit claim is then audited by external auditors. The auditors for the financial year 2023 / 2024 are KPMG.
- 2.4 As part of the audit, KPMG require assurance that the Councillors have agreed to continue with the Modified Scheme.

3. THE MODIFIED SCHEME

- 3.1 Housing Benefit is a means tested benefit and entitlement is based on a comparison of the amount of the claimant's household income against an applicable amount, which is the minimum level of income for the household determined by the DWP. Living expenses are not taken into account in the calculation of Housing Benefit entitlement.
- 3.2 Legislation determines which income and benefits should be included in the calculation to determine entitlement. War disablement pension or war widow's pension are included as income in the calculation, which can reduce the amount of Housing Benefit the claimant is entitled to receive. However, Tameside's Modified Scheme, which has been in place for many years, disregards such income and which means that more Housing Benefit can be paid to the claimant.
- 3.3 Tameside's Modified Scheme is as follows:
In determining the income of a claimant of Housing Benefit, or the partner, the whole of any prescribed war disablement pension or prescribed war widow's pension payable to that person shall be disregarded. This includes the following:
- a war disablement pension;
 - a war widow's pension or war widower's pension;

- a pension payable to a person as a widow, widower or surviving civil partner under any power of Her Majesty otherwise than under an enactment to make provision about pensions for or in respect of persons who have been disabled or have died in consequence of service as members of the armed forces of the Crown;
- a payment made to compensate for the non-payment of such a pension or payment as is mentioned in any of the preceding sub-paragraphs;
- a pension paid by the government of a country outside Great Britain which is analogous to any of the pensions or payments mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) above;
- a pension paid by a government to victims of National Socialist persecution under any special provision made by the law of the Federal Republic of Germany, or any part of it, or of the Republic of Austria.

3.4 The impact of the Modified Scheme for the claimant is that they may qualify for, or receive more, Housing Benefit than under the prescribed legislation, and which is financially advantageous to the claimant.

3.5 The current Housing Benefit caseload in Tameside for which the Modified Scheme applies is just 11 claimants, who are in receipt of a war widows' pension or war widowers pension, and in receipt of Housing Benefit prior to Universal Credit being introduced. Modified Scheme claim numbers will not increase as recipients of the pensions are likely to have been awarded the pension because of World War Two and are now elderly. Any such pensions awarded in respect of later wars will be awarded to considerably younger claimants and for whom Universal Credit applies as the Council are unable to accept new Housing Benefit claims for residents of working-age in accordance with DWP guidance.

4. RISK ASSURANCE

4.1 The Council is required to keep accurate records of benefit spending falling into different categories for the purpose of the subsidy claim to the DWP.

4.2 The subsidy claim is submitted on an annual basis. The following documents are submitted to the DWP:

- Initial Estimate for the forthcoming financial year submitted beginning of March,
- Mid-Year Estimate submitted end of August,
- Initial end of year claim submitted by end of April of next financial year,
- Final Subsidy claim submitted end of November of next financial year.

4.3 Prior to the Final Subsidy claim being submitted, the claim must be audited by external auditors. The auditors for the financial year 2023 / 2024 are KPMG. The auditors have, in recent years, checked the validity of any claims paid under the Council's Modified Scheme and seek assurance that governance is in place to operate the scheme.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Council administers Housing Benefit on behalf of the DWP in accordance with the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 and the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

5.2 Section 134(8)(a) of The Social Security Administration Act 1992 allows local authorities to modify the Housing Benefit scheme, the cost of which is met by the Council. The Council has modified the scheme for many years to offer additional protection to residents in receipt of any prescribed war disablement pension or prescribed war widow's pension.

5.3 The cost to the Council for 2023 / 2024 is estimated to be £26,794 less a payment from the DWP, in lieu of the Council having a local scheme, of £20,096, resulting in an estimated net

cost to the Council of £6,698. It is envisioned that the cost will reduce year on year due to the impact of Universal Credit migration and reducing eligible claimant numbers.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 As set at the front of this report.

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Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	27 September 2023
Executive Member:	Councillor Vimal Choksi, Executive Member (Town Centres, Communities)
Reporting Officer:	Julian Jackson, Director of Place
Subject:	ASHTON PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY – PHASE 2 (UNFUNDED)
Report Summary:	The report incorporates the principles of the approved Phase 1 Public Realm Strategy in sets out the vision, design principles and key themes for the wider town centre in ensuring a robust and cohesive town centre wide strategy is in place to attract further investment into Ashton Town Centre.
Recommendations:	<p>That Executive Cabinet APPROVES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) The proposed Phase 2 Public Realm Strategy for the wider Town Centre(ii) The Director of Place proactively apply to have additional external funding to support the proposed cohesive approach to Ashton’s regeneration in the Phase 2 Public Realm Strategy. <p>That Executive Cabinet NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(iii) Progress made to date in delivering the Phase 1 Market Square proposals.(iv) There is no funding currently available to deliver any of the schemes and initiatives identified in this Phase 2 strategy.
Corporate Plan:	Key aims of the Corporate Plan are to provide opportunities for people to fulfil their potential through work, skills, and enterprise and to ensure modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment that works for all generations and future generations. The interventions that will be supported by the Ashton Public Realm Strategy will deliver against these aims in the areas of job creation, modern infrastructure, and a sustainable environment.
Policy Implications:	The proposed interventions will support the policy aims of the Council’s Inclusive Growth Strategy 2021, Tameside Climate Change & Environment Strategy, the Council’s growth priorities agreed at Council February 2020 and the draft Greater Manchester Places for Everyone joint development strategy.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>The Council does not have specific General Fund project budgets in place to support day-to-day expenditure in relation to delivering this Strategy.</p> <p>Costs associated with the delivery of the Strategy are highly likely to meet the definition of capital expenditure and can be considered as such once they are defined in a suitable programme of works and are approved by Executive Cabinet.</p> <p>The Council has defined phase 1 works in Section 2 of this report, and prior reporting to Executive Cabinet.</p> <p>The phase 1 works (outlined in Section 2) will be financed via Levelling</p>

Up Fund capital grant funding awarded to the Council of £19.870m (total grant award). Within this sum, £11.200m is allocated to finance public realm improvements in the town centre.

In addition to this sum the approved capital programme has a Council funded budget allocation of £4.251m for public realm works across the Borough. Any decision in future taken by Executive Cabinet on use of this in support of the Ashton Public Realm Strategy should be considered in the round against the needs in the Borough so as not to make a decision that, upon review, is recognised as being sub-optimal in terms of the Council's Best Value duty.

Table 1 below provides a summary of the capital schemes in Ashton town centre that will be financed by the Levelling Up Fund grant and Council funding within the approved capital programme.

Table 1: Capital Funding Available for Public Realm and Ashton

Scheme component	Levelling Up Fund Grant (£m)	Council Funding (£m)	Total (£m)
Public Realm Improvements	11.200	4.251	15.451
Ashton Town Hall Restoration	3.400	-	3.400
Former Ashton Interchange Site	5.270	-	5.270
Total	19.870	4.251	24.121

As noted in the recommendations, there is no funding identified for delivery of Phase 2. In the current high interest environment around borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB), it is not recommended that the Council finances Phase 2 from external borrowing currently. A full His Majesty's Treasury (HMT) Green Book business case will be required to support future programmes to deliver Phase 2 to assure Executive Cabinet that any decision taken protects the General Fund and delivers value-for-money across Tameside as a place.

The content of this report, and the recommendations and decisions do not place pressure on the General Fund, nor do they increase the budget gap across the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Should there be any adverse impacts from these decisions they must be constrained within existing resources.

Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report. Legal services continue to provide support to the project as it progresses particularly in relation to any future bids for external funding.

Risk Management:

Set out in the main body of the report

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Mike Reed – Head of Major Programmes



Telephone:



e-mail: Mike.Reed@tameside.gov.uk

Or Damien Cutting – Economic Growth Lead



Telephone:



e-mail: Damien.Cutting@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 27 October 2021 it was announced that the £19.870m Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid for Ashton Town Centre had been successful. The specific interventions proposed in the LUF bid were prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LUF and are critical to unlocking the comprehensive redevelopment of the Town Centre, supporting a coherent vision, and completing of the final phase of Vision Tameside.
- 1.2 A multidisciplinary team led by Planit IE were procured via STaR, the Council's shared Procurement service, in January 2022 to prepare a strategy for public realm works across Ashton Town Centre both within the LUF programme and for future works, subject to additional funding. The team include architects, cost specialists, engineers, and market operations.
- 1.3 Phase 1 of the strategy is now being implemented and focuses on delivering Levelling Up Funding proposals for the redevelopment of Market Square and the outdoor market which have been submitted to the local planning authority for approval. A budget of £11.200m is identified for public realm works in the Town Centre for delivery by 31 March 2025, as previously approved by Executive Cabinet. Progress on delivery of the Ashton Town Centre LUF programme and public realm works is reported quarterly to the Council's Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel.
- 1.4 This Phase 2 Public Realm Strategy incorporates high level design principles for the wider town centre and includes the more detailed proposals for Market Square included in the first phase strategy. The focus for this Phase 2 Strategy is on improving the connectivity of key town centre destinations such as St Petersfield, Stamford Street and Old Street with the redevelopment of the Market Square area and core town centre uses.
- 1.5 The Executive Cabinet report from 29 March 2023 ([Item 9](#)), sets out the approvals for the detailed design to be undertaken on the agreed scheme for Market Square and surrounding sites including Fletcher Square, Market Avenue, Warrington Street and land between Ashton Town Hall and Tameside One. Whilst the planning submission includes all this area within the planning application boundary, the Levelling Up Funding will be used for the redevelopment of Market Square and future funding will be identified to deliver the remaining areas.
- 1.6 Whilst new projects are identified in the strategy for delivery, the Council has no funding available at the present time and will be seeking opportunities to attract further funding streams. This second phase of the strategy is important in ensuring Ashton Town Centre has a clear vision and plan in place to respond positively to future funding initiatives, as and when they emerge, to deliver these later phases of works.

2. ASHTON PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY – PHASE 1, MARKET SQUARE

- 2.1 The final phase one strategy can be viewed in **Appendix 1** and is centred on a vision where *'Ashton Market is the beating heart of the town. A modern market for everyone, a destination attracting locals and visitors, hosting a range of entertaining events.'* The detailed design work and consultation findings are included within the Executive Cabinet report referenced in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.2 The proposal will result in the complete redevelopment of Market Square including the removal of all existing structures, market stalls, and street furniture. A new modern and flexible market square will be created using high quality materials, a level surface created across the square to improve accessibility and movement as well as the capability to deliver events of varying scales, new seating areas, tree planting, and greening including the installation of Sustainable

Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to reduce surface run off, play, infrastructure to enable access to power.

- 2.3 The most significant proposal is the installation of a large canopy structure for Market Square. From discussions with market traders and kiosk operators, the view is that Ashton should retain an outdoor market and that the kiosks increased footfall to Market Square. To build on the vision of a modern market square that future-proofs Ashton's traditional market offer, the large canopy installed will incorporate new kiosk facilities and market stalls to futureproof Ashton's outdoor market for future generations. In addition, the canopy will include a more diverse offer that includes a food and drink offer, events, and leisure to encourage activity in the evening, all of which will be protected from the weather and so can be used all year round. Waste bins from traders and other storage areas are included into the final design.
- 2.4 The redeveloped Market Square will act as a catalyst to regenerating other areas in the town centre – some of which are identified in the Phase 2 Strategy – attracting a broader demographic of visitors, improving the local offer, and instil a sense of pride in the town centre. The detailed design work is being progressed and all being well, a decision at the Council's Speakers Panel will enable to Council to progress with the appointment of a contractor to deliver the scheme.
- 2.5 Extensive consultation has been carried out with the local community, key stakeholders, Ashton Town Team, and Ashton market traders and with the local community at the Love Ashton event held in Ashton Market Hall on 12 March 2022. A consultation strategy (**Appendix 1**) includes a summary of comments received at the Love Ashton event, all of which have led into the emerging proposals and concepts of the next stage consultation brochure (Executive Summary) (**Appendix 2**). It was clear from feedback at the Love Ashton event that residents and visitors to Ashton want to see change and an improved offer of the Market Square with many people favouring the idea of a canopied structure in the square. Anti-social behaviour associated with the existing market stalls was also high on the number of comments that people made with many references to feeling unsafe in the area.

3. ASHTON PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY – PHASE 2, ASHTON TOWN CENTRE WIDE

- 3.1 The second phase of the public realm strategy for Ashton includes longer term proposals to regenerate the wider town centre and includes Stamford Street Central, Old Street, and St. Michael's Square. The strategy incorporates the existing approved scheme for Wellington Road and extend to Katherine Street, Penny Meadows, and Oldham Road. The strategy integrates the public realm strategy for the Future St Petersfield masterplan area demonstrating a cohesive approach to all this work.
- 3.2 The Phase 2 Public Realm Strategy (**Appendix 3**) will enhance Ashton's unique character to become a truly memorable destination. This requires a holistic approach, considering a variety of factors to create a comprehensive solution for Ashton town centre. Proposals are sustainable, encourage a sense of community and seek to improve health and well-being of the local community.
- 3.3 Consultation has been undertaken including discussions with Council officers, key stakeholders, Ashton Town Team, Ashton market traders and with the local community at the Love Ashton event held in Ashton Market Hall on 12 March 2022. A consultation strategy (**Appendix 1**) illustrates the types of responses that were received at the Love Ashton event.
- 3.4 The vision builds on the proposals for Market Square where *'Ashton Town Centre will be known for celebrating its unique heritage and distinctive identity. A compact, well-connected, and sustainable place. A friendly and welcoming place for future generations to enjoy. A destination where people can socialise and relax. The Market Square will be the beating heart of the town; a modern market and public space enlivened by events, cafe culture and a vibrant*

evening economy'. In response to this vision, and inclusive of the proposals identified in the Phase 1 Strategy, there are several themes covered in this Phase 2 Strategy including:

- Inclusive and accessible
- Townscape context
- Responding to heritage
- Connectivity and accessibility
- Sustainability
- Safer streets and spaces
- Culture and events
- Health and well-being
- Wayfinding, lighting, and signage
- Brand identity and public art

3.5 The vision is centred on several themes for Ashton that include:

- Supporting the evening/night-time offer,
- A welcoming and high quality market offer,
- Attractive green spaces,
- Facilities for walking and cycling,
- A legible and connected town centre,
- Celebrating Ashton's assets.

3.6 A series of design principles respond to the context of the Town Centre and underpin the public realm strategy. The design principles are specific strategies and spatial proposals that will help to shape the future of Ashton Town Centre and the delivery of the vision. These include:

- Connecting St Petersfield to the heart of the town,
- Creating a series of spaces to create destination in the town,
- Redefine the market as the heart of the town,
- Enhance the arrival to the town centre to encourage footfall into the town e.g., Ikea and Ashton Interchange,
- Define connections across the town to improve people movement in and around Ashton town centre.

3.7 As a result of the vision, design principle and themes outlined above, some key projects are identified for:

- Ashton Market Hall – the Council has recently secured funding through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to repurpose vacant and underused space inside the market hall to include space for culture, leisure, and events.
- Old Street - options to re-imagine this historic route, improve the environment for pedestrians and cyclists, whilst balancing the access needs of servicing, taxis, and emergency vehicles.
- Stamford Street Central - to highlight the street's historic lively character while creating a walkable, pleasant, and attractive zone with tree-planting and flexible spaces that will support resident's everyday life routine, as well as the area's daytime and nighttime economy. Stamford Street Central will become an east-west one way thoroughfare with pedestrian priority and cyclist traffic.
- Oldham Road - proposal to reduce the carriageway width and improve pedestrian crossings and street trees will create an attractive environment for walking and cycling.
- Katherine Street - proposal to improve the public realm in Katherine Street will future proof the route into the town heart and promote residential growth to the west of Ashton.
- St Michaels Square – proposals to reanimate the space. To introduce a green barrier to the busy interchange and encourage a space for outdoor seating and a place to celebrate the heritage of the town.

3.8 The strategy also includes reference to the Mayors Challenge Fund (MCF) scheme known as Albion Way and Wellington Road. Work is ongoing to finalise the draft business case following feedback. The proposals will complement the wider town centre plans and public realm improvements and will be subject to further modelling work being carried out by the Council's Highways team.

4. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

4.1 The Council has carried out extensive consultation on the public realm proposals for both the Market Square and wider town centre. The Love Ashton event was very popular and generated a lot of interest in the town centre proposals. The Council has also engaged several stakeholders including Ashton Town Team, Tameside College, Ashton Sixth Form, Ashton Delivery Group, local businesses, residents, landowners including the shopping centre owners, and ward members. The findings of this consultation are included in **Appendix 1** of this report.

4.2 The local community in Ashton have made it clear that they want to see improvements across the town centre. Issues with anti-social behaviour, lack of offer, poor quality environment and issues accessing the town centre were all popular responses throughout the consultation.

4.3 Feedback from the consultation events, surveys and key stakeholder workshops has been fed into this final strategy.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 The main risks associated with the delivery of the Public Realm Strategy are identified in the table below.

Risk Area	Detail	RAG Rating	Mitigation	RAG Rating
Programme	Lack of a town centre wide strategy could impact delivery of projects across the town.	Yellow	Strategy provides a cohesive approach to town centre regeneration.	Green
Programme	Lack of capacity within the Council and partners to undertake workstreams in line with expectations.	Yellow	If further funding secured, additional resource would be required to deliver outcomes.	Yellow
Financial	No approved strategy for wider town centre compromises the authority in successfully bidding for further external funding.	Yellow	Once the strategy is approved, the likelihood of future funding bids being successful increases.	Green
Financial	No funding identified to deliver projects in the Phase 2 Strategy	Red	Once approved, the Council will continue to seek opportunities for external funding to deliver schemes	Yellow

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 As outlined in the Phase 1 Public Realm Strategy for Market Square, the redevelopment of this significant civic outdoor space provides an opportunity to kickstart the regeneration of Ashton Town Centre. Building on several of the design principles within the Phase 1 strategy, this Phase 2 strategy provides the wider context for regenerating the town centre. Proposals focus on destinations and place making and seek to ensure that these are well connected to the core of the town centre, Market Square and surrounding businesses and assets.
- 6.2 The strategy provides a cohesive approach to regeneration in the town centre, building on some of the towns existing assets such as St Petersfield, Ikea, the shopping centres and landmark heritage features along Stamford Street and Old Street. Whilst the proposals (aside from the Phase 1 Market Square planning application) sit outside of the existing Levelling Up Funding, the strategy will enable the Council to seek additional funding to help to deliver on the vision for Ashton Town Centre outlined in this strategy.

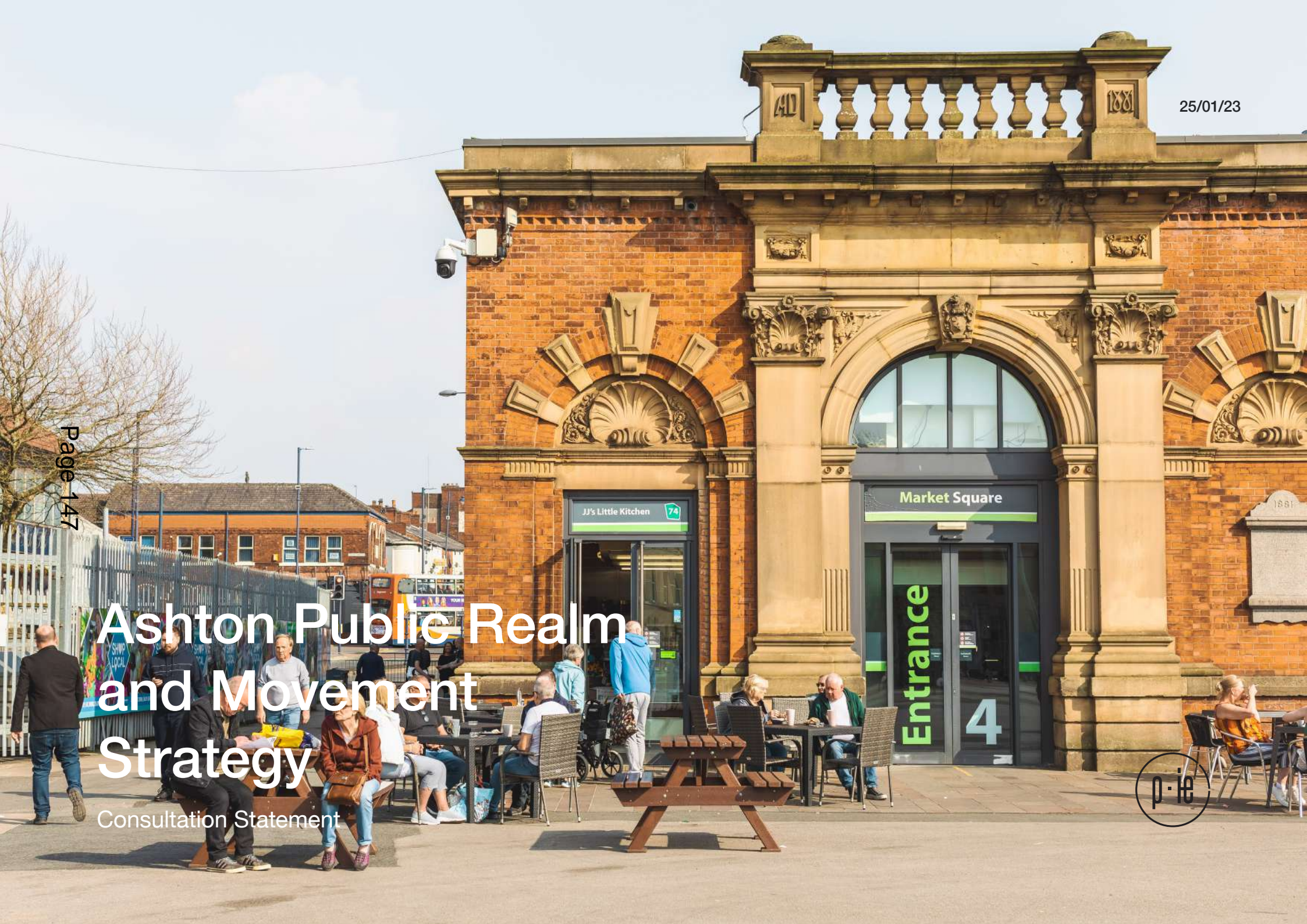
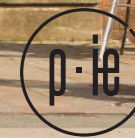
7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 As set out at the front of the report.

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Ashton Public Realm and Movement Strategy

Consultation Statement



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Introduction

This Consultation Statement has been produced in support of the Public Realm Strategy for Ashton-under-Lyne.

Consultation from March 2022 and the Stage 2 engagement sessions which included; stakeholder workshops, a 4 week public consultation with sessions and a questionnaire. These findings will help the project team to discount or support the design of the Market Square, Hall and Town Hall, and the key design ideas to consider for detail design.

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A two stage programme of engagement and consultation has been designed to run alongside the Public Realm Strategy. The project team are nearing the end of the Public Realm Strategy, so it is important at this stage to take stock of the responses to the emerging proposals and ideas so far and to assess how emerging issues and ideas are being received by stakeholders and the wider community.

This document presents the findings of the Stage 1

Throughout the preparation of the Public Realm Strategy a comprehensive consultation process has taken place.



01 Stage 1 March 2022



Love Ashton Engagement



Planit-IE and Members of Tameside Council talking to the public



Residents reviewing the engagement boards

TMBC have appointed Planit and Civic Engineers to undertake a Public Realm and Movement strategy for Ashton-under-Lyne Town Centre.

This is to create a thriving Town Centre for Ashton-under-Lyne through collaborative design approaches, seeking to breathe new life into the town centre public realm, in turn attracting inward investment to create a prosperous town centre for years to come.



Input on the engagement boards - 'Functions of Space'



Input on the engagement boards - 'Physical Interventions'

Objectives of the Strategy

To create a public realm strategy that is memorable and unique for Ashton. This requires a holistic approach that takes into consideration a wide variety of factors to create a comprehensive, but simple solution for Ashton town centre.

These objectives will influence the final Ashton Public Realm and Movement Vision and aim to create:

A town that is
Functional and accessible



A town that is
Connected



A town to
Enjoy in the day and night



A town that has
Healthy and beautiful green spaces with planting



A town with
An identity



A town that
Instigates further regeneration

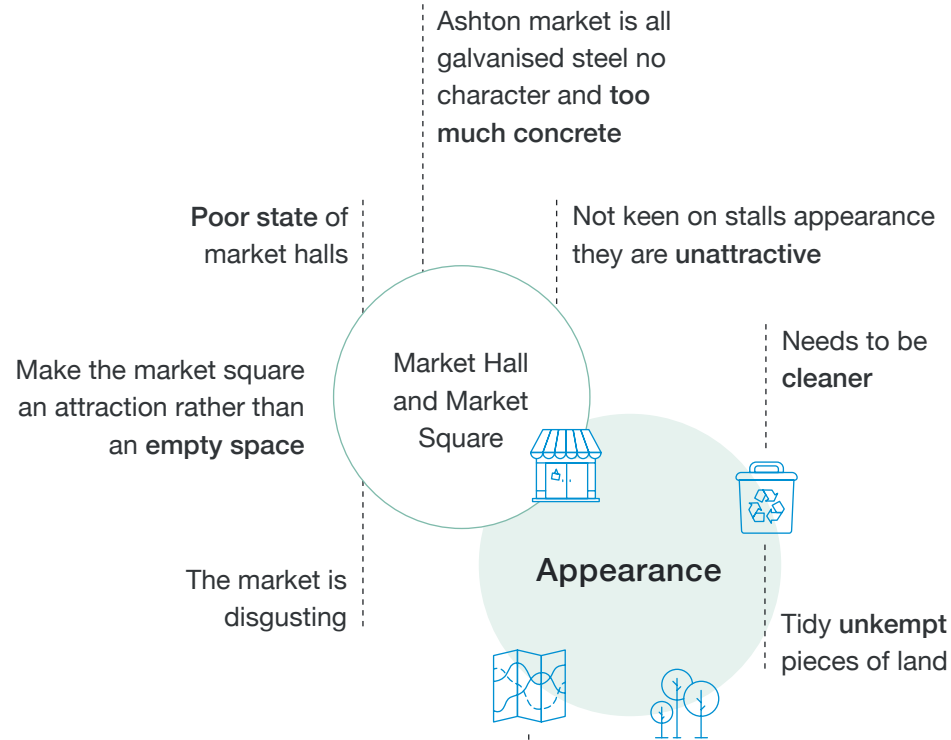


A town with
A high quality market space



Page 155





All derelict closed building to be made attractive maybe a false/ fake (? – not legible) either material, metal or wood design on front how it could look. When occupied, so looks more attractive and appealing.

Page 156



Aerial view too much concrete - so grey, depressing and no character

Quick fixes – green spaces, lighting and cleanliness

Need to condense all the small silos of the little areas i.e. Stamford street, penny meadow, market avenue...





Bus station drives footfall straight into the Arcades SC with many never venturing into the square

Bus stops returned to back of market hall. Able bodied students given pedestrian zone at the expense of less able bodied bus users i.e. – further to walk, more roads to cross and uphill on Henrietta Street.

Too much concrete by our new bus station which by the way is too small half of the buses do not have a space

Coaches not allowed in bus station yet the bus station is empty most of the time so plenty of room

Improve public transport to Stamford Street



Bus Station

Safer and better walking routes

Forgotten 'Old Town', larger investment in Albion Way



Lack of movement in the 'Old Town'

Transport/
Accessibility

Accessibility from public transport

Parking

Too much car traffic in the centre of Ashton



Taxis

Free 1 hour parking



Disabled parking closer to town

Taxis not in the right place

Taxi rank





Ashton town hall needs due care and attention

This building (Town Hall) used to symbolise Ashton town and its heritage

Where is the history/ heritage of the town



Ashton Town Hall

Town Hall needs updating and opening up - what is going in there?

Hippodrome – More theatre and events in Ashton again



Theatre

Culture

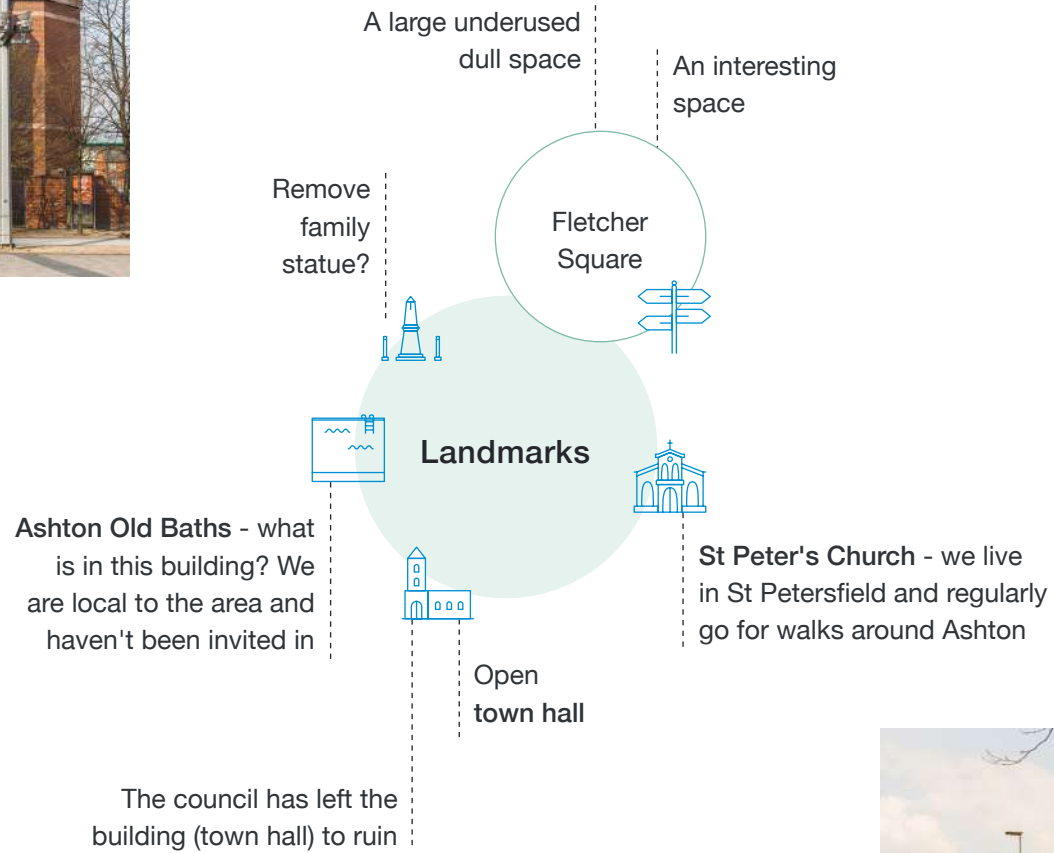
The theatre once an important place (Charlie Chaplin played here) is being left to rot

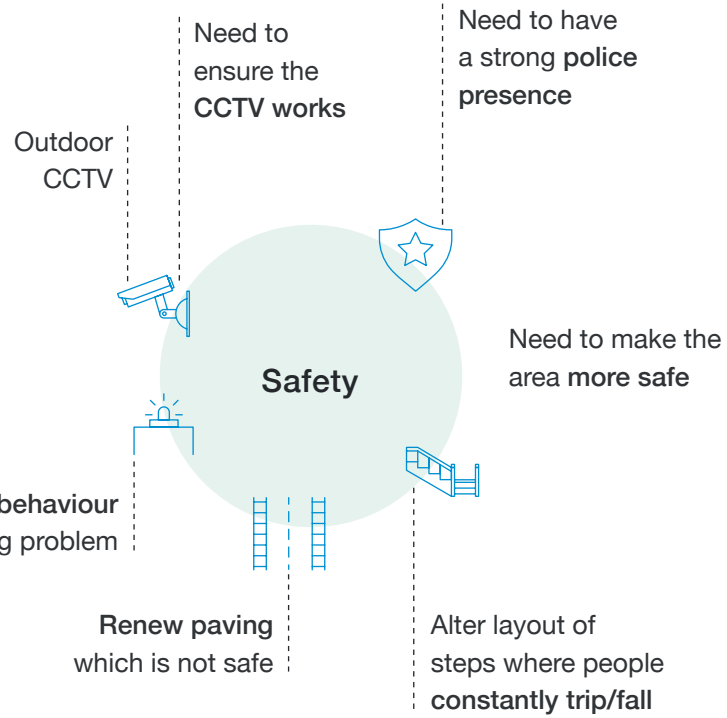
Saturday market was once busy and interesting now it is empty and lifeless





Page 159

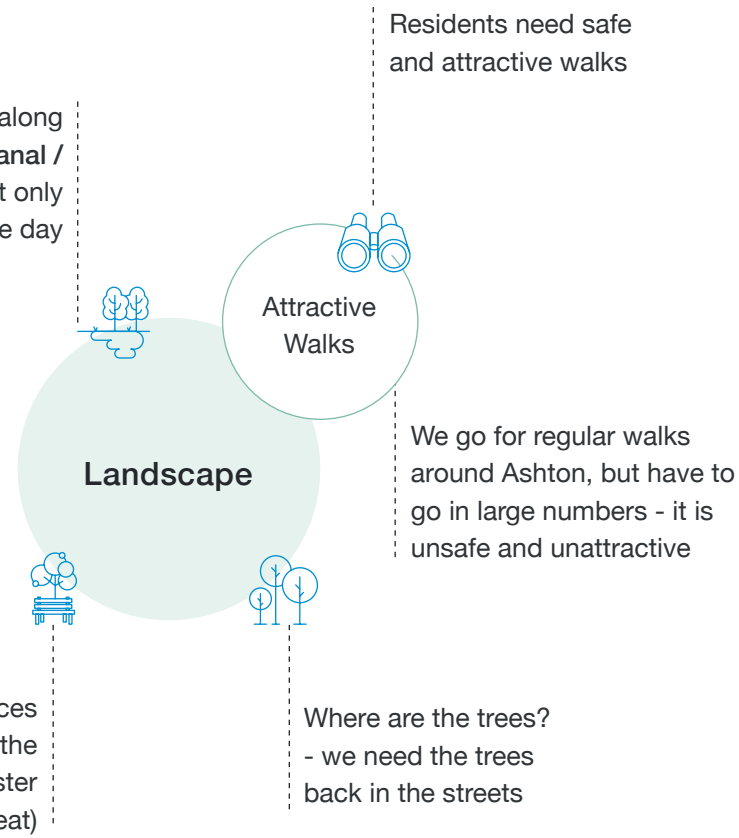






Walks along the canal / river but only during the day

Residents need safe and attractive walks

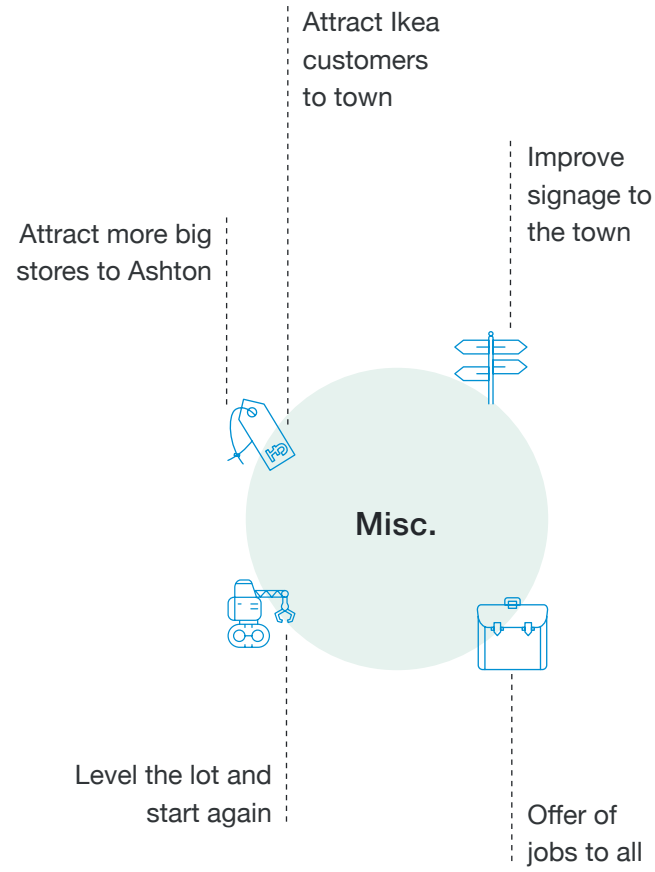


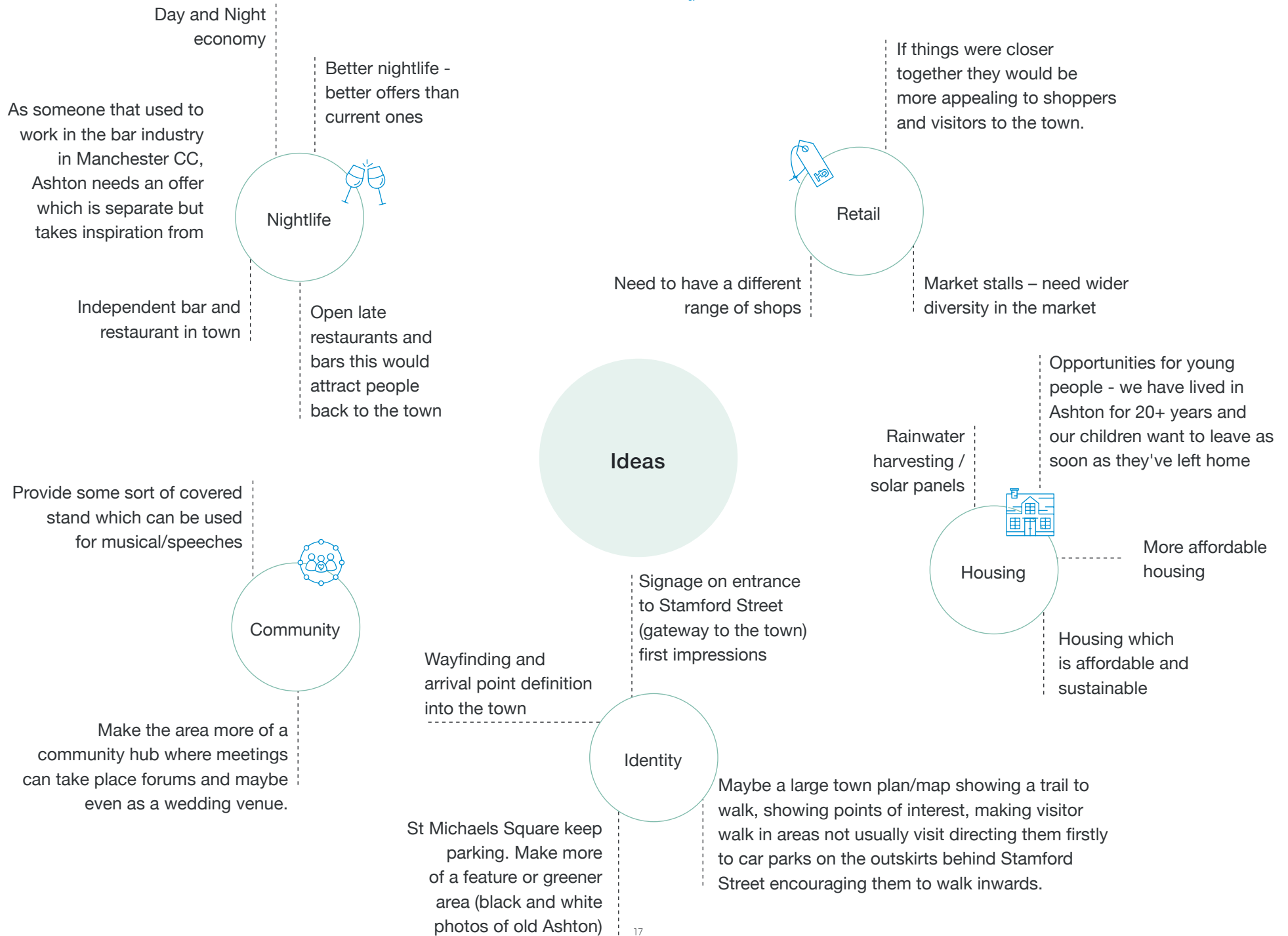
Picnic places - lacking at the moment (Chester Zoo is great)

Where are the trees?
- we need the trees back in the streets

We go for regular walks around Ashton, but have to go in large numbers - it is unsafe and unattractive









551
questionnaire
responses

02 Stage 2 November 2022

The Consultation

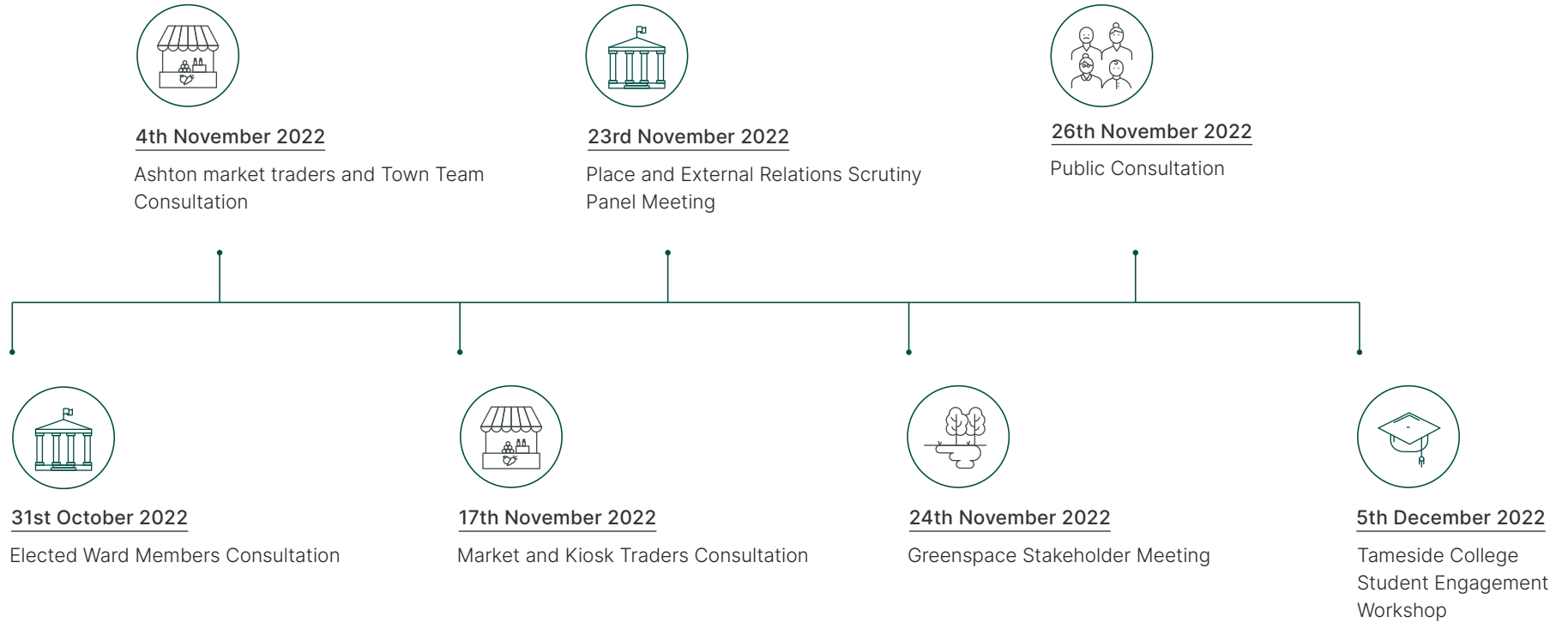
Consultation in Stage 2 focussed on the Market Square and took the form of workshops, briefings and meetings. The objectives of the consultation were to engage with key stakeholders and a wide variety of people and community groups to develop a clear local picture and to gain an insight into issues, opportunities, and future aspirations for Ashton Market Square and Market Hall.

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The consultation went public with a Public Realm Strategy booklet, associated consultation boards for the public events and a questionnaire.



Stage 2



Public Consultation



As part of the engagement process, the project team carried out public consultation drop-in sessions in the Market Hall. Ashton residents raised some objections and concerns, and contributed suggestions.

Objections to:

- Re-doing the market square which was only recently done, and the perceived waste of money that could be better spent
- Losing the outdoor market
- Investment being focussed on Ashton rather than distributed to other areas in need of investment across Tameside
- Not convinced that investment in the market ground will have the desired uplifting effect on the town centre

Tameside Resident

"I object to anymore money being wasted on Ashton [...] What about the rest of tameside."

Concerns over:

- Play area location in relation to taxi rank, pub spillout, servicing and attracting antisocial behaviour
- Proposed fixed structures such as cinema or music stand could quickly look obsolete as tastes change, obstruct eyelines and might lead to vandalism.
- High levels of homelessness.
- Safety and antisocial behaviour in areas with poor visibility - particularly in social spaces and along key strategic movement corridors.
- Proposals being out of step with the culture and economics around shopping and leisure with e-shopping and out-of-town retail
- General state of neglect across the town, low quality offer, and high vacancy rates.
- Lack of things for children and teens to do, and perceived lack of safety - encourage college students to use the centre and local teens to
- Lack of demand for a seven-day market and empty market kiosks
- Bird droppings becoming maintenance burden or deterrent for seating areas

Ashton Resident

"Not so long ago a lot of money was spent on the market [...] the market ground is uneven and terrible to walk on [...] what a waste of money that was!"

"No amount of money spent on the market area will make it more attractive to shoppers. The centre is full of 'non shops' such as pound shops, betting shops etc all the decent shops have gone to out of town."

Suggestions to:

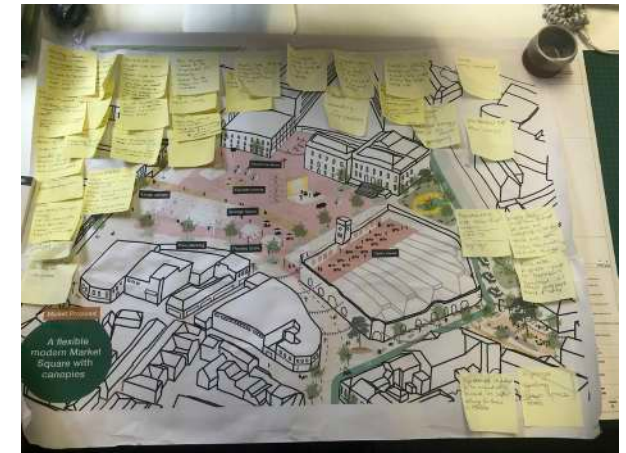
- Move play more centrally in the square
- Retain kiosks on market ground
- Provision needed for trade waste and site cleaning operation.
- Buses to be rerouted back onto Wellington Road. Thereby needing a crossing between the college buildings.
- More trees, planting, and seasonal interest
- Retain and facilitate the Sunday flea market
- Reduce market days to concentrate demand and supply over fewer days and increase market square activity and buzz on those days.
- Specify temporary outdoor furniture to ensure quality of environment - Could be leased/rented from the Council?

Ashton Resident

"The plans would be enhanced by a lovely sunken garden, with plenty of benches and colour."



Public consultation in Ashton Market



Responses to emerging proposals

Ashton Resident

"We'd like to see a better variety of trees. Could we have some the same as those in Library Square in Manchester? They have startling spring blooms."

Ashton Business Owner

"It looks great, Ashton needs the investment... Ashton is ready to improve, Stamford street could be something really special again"

Ashton Resident

"It is to be hoped that the mistakes made in developing the current Market Square can be avoided and an amenity of which Ashton can be proud can finally be realised."



Paulownia trees in spring bloom, St Peter's Square, Manchester



Market Traders and Kiosk Traders

Market and Kiosk traders were consulted on proposals to understand what would work best for their businesses.

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Responses to emerging proposals

Concerns over:

- Access for deliveries and own car to stalls
- Bus stop provision has been removed
- Too far to walk with shopping
- Accessibility for less able bodied and important pensioner trade

Suggestions to:

- Shelter and protection from the elements - especially westerly wind and rain, summer shade - free standing roof rather than canopies
- Need large van servicing access along Bow St for market traders not all day only at key times of the day
- Storage to stop lots of unloading for market traders
- Access for people from public transport required from Wellington Road (bus routes along this road)
- Pop-up/temporary/seasonal events/offer in the market square.
- Lighting in the evening is critical
- Food and drink offer - night-time economy
- Mitigate westerly wind
- Signage and wayfinding from key transport hubs
- Need to establish intimate spaces and curate atmospheres of 'hustle and bustle', buzz.

- Improve drainage capacity

Kiosk Design:

- Kiosks need protection from the weather
- Kiosks designed for food – required
- 10ft by 10ft doesn't work for some uses - Different sized kiosks to suit different trader needs– carrier for storage
- Industrial quality of finishes needed for this use
- Intimate space – overlooked if the kiosks all face inwards, under the canopy
- fixed kiosks to operate as a 'shop
- Need own canopy
- Kiosks need protection from the weather

F&B:

- Food and drink as a cluster along gallery side of canopy
- Cafes along market frontage
- F&B at the rear end of the Market Hall (near Market Street edge)
- Option to place the F&B at the back of the Market Hall
- Outdoor seating for food stalls



The engagement work that had been undertaken to date had revealed a long list of aims, objectives and aspirations for Ashton. Whilst all of these objectives will be important to the future success of the project, not everything can be delivered at once. The purpose of this activity was to collectively determine the priorities for the project and to consider how these might be delivered.

The Prioritisation Game helped establish where the most important and shortest term opportunities were for the Market Square and Ashton Town Centre. The workshop was split into two groups of up to 10 students from Tameside College. The results are discussed on the next page..

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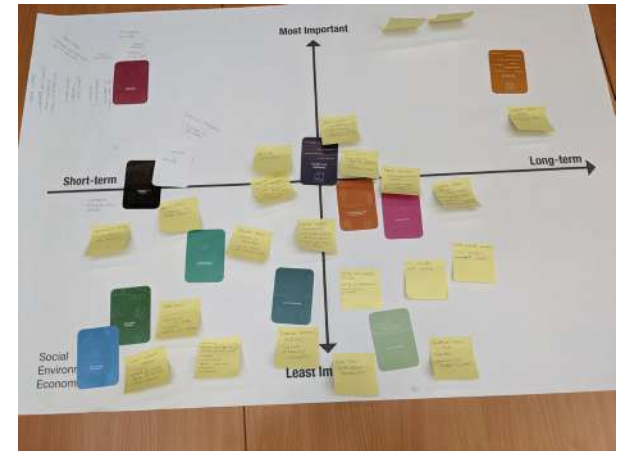
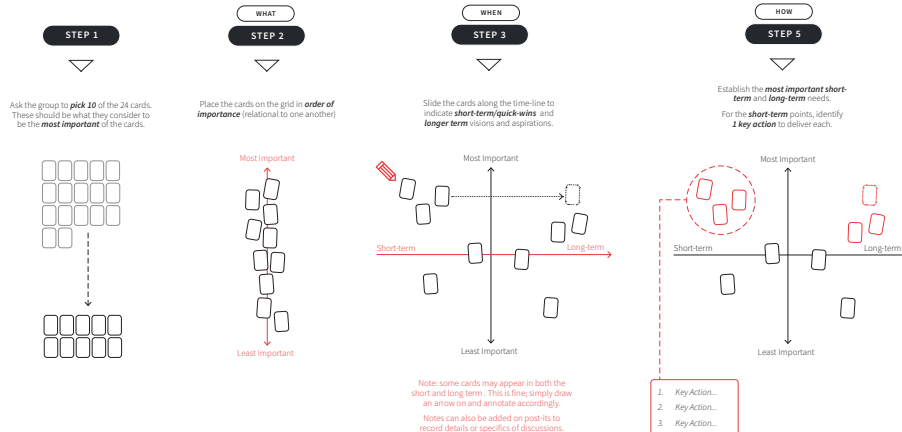
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE MARKET SQUARE: PRIORITISATION GAME INSTRUCTIONS



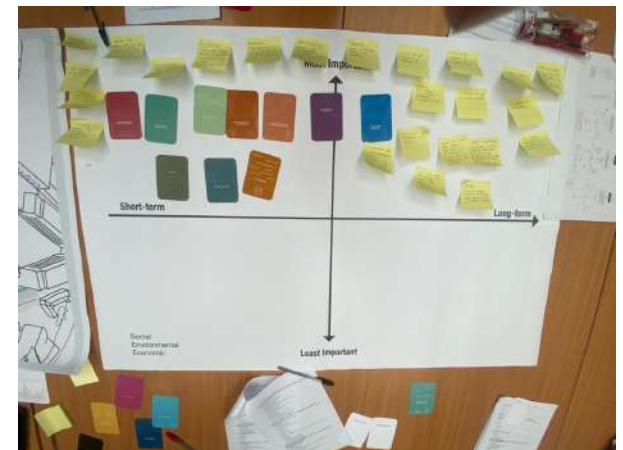
THE CARDS*

1. Commercial Viability	7. Local Character / Identity	13. Eco-friendly / Sustainable Principles	19. Inclusivity
2. Local Business	8. Retail	14. Retention of Heritage Buildings	20. Access and Connectivity
3. Green Space / Wildlife Habitat	9. Play and Recreation	15. Community Spaces	21. Outdoor events
4. Housing	10. Job Creation	16. Charitable Organisations	22. Nighttime Economy
5. Arts and Culture	11. Car Parking and Traffic Solutions	17. Access and Connectivity	23. Advertising and Marketing
6. Educational Uses	12. Public Space	18. Health and Wellbeing	24. Make your own...

*These are based on previous engagement outcomes



Group 1



Group 2

Students from Tameside College gave valuable insight into Ashton from a youth perspective.

Inclusive Spaces:

Students spoke of the broad range of religions and ethnicities which make up the Ashton community, not all of which are represented in the town centre. Students felt there is a lack of inclusivity and provision for youths. They complained of no place to go, a lack of social spaces or amenities where they can socialise.

College finishes in the evening when everything is closed. Safety and security was raised as an issue, including inadequate lighting. They felt judged for loitering at certain times, and that there is a lack of seating and opportunities for them to dwell comfortably. They called for a range of spaces to suit different needs, including safe spaces for girls, quiet spaces, active spaces for play and recreation, and a community hub, which should be free or cheap with passes (for students).

Celebrate Heritage:

Students were proud of the heritage buildings and rich history of Ashton, but felt it was under-celebrated. They suggested that the industrial heritage needs to be reflected through regeneration, and that more could be done to celebrate Ashton's history, including promoting Portland Basin Museum.

Social Issues:

It was felt strongly that Ashton suffers from pronounced social issues which affected the experience of the town centre, including a visible drug and homelessness problem, and gang culture which needs to be tackled.

Suggested solutions to these problems were discussed, and there was agreement that regeneration of the town centre is important for job creation which can help to alleviate these social issues.

Students complained that there was a lack of choice and variety for work, with most jobs in retail. They hoped for a better variety of work options.

Need for Regeneration:

Students felt that the edges of the town required significant attention, and that this should be a priority. They complained of too much car parking with much of it derelict, such as Lady Smiths, and that it attracts anti-social behaviour and drug users.

Promoting Active Travel:

Students advocated for better provision for active travel to boost health and wellbeing and increase sustainability, including increased pedestrianisation around the market to promote walking. They complained of not enough cycle storage and not in right place, with safety a concern and a lack of trust in leaving bikes locked up.

Bring it to Life:

Students felt the town centre was lacking vibrancy. They complained that the townscape lacked visual and architectural interest, that it's all grey and would benefit from some colour, better lighting, more greenspace and wildlife habitat.

They suggested an emphasis should be placed on Food and drink / Outdoor events / Night time economy / Arts and culture, and attracting smaller local independent business back to town.



Student engagement workshop, Ashton Old Baths



Greenspace Team

Tameside Council's Greenspace team contributed practical considerations for design, management and maintenance of the public realm.

Inclusive design

- Skateboarding provision for teenage offer
- Plenty of ideas for play related including QR code offer
- Youth services have a bike track that could be brought to site for use during and after market hours.
- Play for all ages needed to attract all ages.
- Seating to encourage college students to use centre (stop 5/6 groups standing around which other people might find intimidating)

Safety

- Is CCTV and lighting being considered within the scheme for night use and safety?
- Sight lines need considering

Maintenance

- Maintenance needs considering with provision and resources built in.
- No Grass (maintenance issues) turns to mud in winter.
- Trees (Chinese Privet grows to 5m high) can be grown in containers but moving around not good idea as plants are prone to die off if their environment is changed.
- Canopy no sides preferred for ease of cleansing and to minimise ASB
- Outdoor gym equipment has maintenance and health and safety issues attached.
- Enforcement needed on private land owners/ developers around visual impact of sites.
- Build in annual deep clean going forward.
- Provision needed for trade waste and site cleaning operation.
- No point improving the centre when periphery looks like a building site/top.
- No communal planting areas on square (issues with ownership) maybe look at provision in partnership with the college for herb beds on the mezzanine

Public realm considerations

- Gateways need to be considered when drawing the red line to give best first impression.
- Consistency across scheme same materials etc.
- Large statement pieces rather than lots of small installations
- Whole site needs to be considered to maintain continuity, standard and best use of area.

Environmental/Climatic considerations

- Wind breaks need considering
- Drainage including SUDS needs looking at. Run off in such a large area will be large.

Street furniture considerations

- Wayfinding and signage need improving
- Provision for Bike parking



Tameside Owners and Drivers Association

Tameside Owners and Drivers Association submitted a formal response to the consultation, which raised important considerations regarding transport strategy and placemaking.

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"The taxi trade provides public transport to all sectors of the community including vulnerable persons [...] we are on occasions the only form of public transport available.

Extending the taxi rank would provide daytime shoppers with better accessibility, and at night-time assist in preventing antisocial behaviour by dispersing crowds quickly and efficiently, especially when hosting events in the Market Square."

Objections to:

- Positioning of play area/'park' in relation to taxi rank, pub spillout, servicing and attracting antisocial behaviour.

Concerns over:

- Previously been assured at trade meetings that there were plans in the pipeline to extend this rank and move it closer to the Town Hall.

Suggestions to:

- Move play more centrally in the square
- Extend the taxi rank into the former compound area and closer to the town hall to increase capacity, mitigate rank overspill to help facilitate flexible event uses in the square.



Taxi rank and compound site, Wellington Road



Consultation materials showing play area at compound site, Wellington Road



Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel Meeting

Tameside Council's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel submitted a formal response to the consultation, which highlights important considerations for the ambition of proposals, how to ensure good footfall, good governance of the project, and how to ensure success beyond delivery.

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Ambition

- Remain as bold as possible in supporting a wider pull factor. To create something that differentiates Ashton Market Square within the region.
- Maximise the use of environmentally friendly and sustainable methods, actively reducing the carbon footprint and for this to be an exemplar project in Tameside for materials and renewables.

Footfall

- Members are keen to ensure that work is undertaken to understand what will lead to greater use and footfall, and what mix of uses will work best.
- Need for extended use of the square outside of trader and shop opening times.
- Potential to create a more structured approach to accessing the square with entry and exit that supports footfall to traders and businesses, whilst maintaining the ease of movement to wider public services and the college.
- Signpost the Market square as a destination.

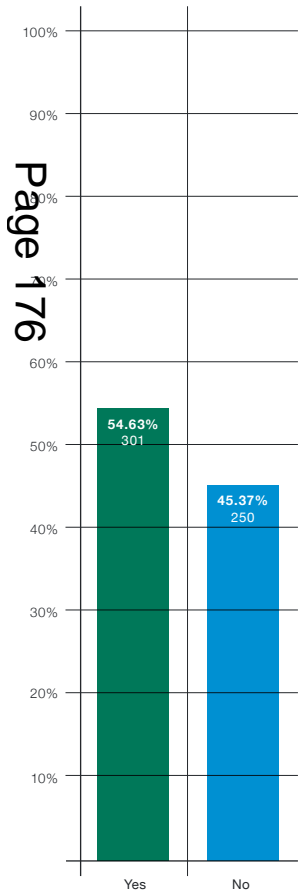
Governance

- Continued and progressive methods of dialogue and engagement with key stakeholders is key to the success of the project.
- Potential option to establish - Ashton Market Square Advisory and Delivery Panel - for the duration. To include representatives of the Council, Elected Members, Market Traders, Businesses and the Town Team. To promote transparency and deliver key messages and updates at agreed intervals.
- The importance of effective costing, delivery timetables and transparency of communication throughout the length of the programme with key stakeholders. In order to work for all, the project needs to be informed by all.

Beyond Delivery

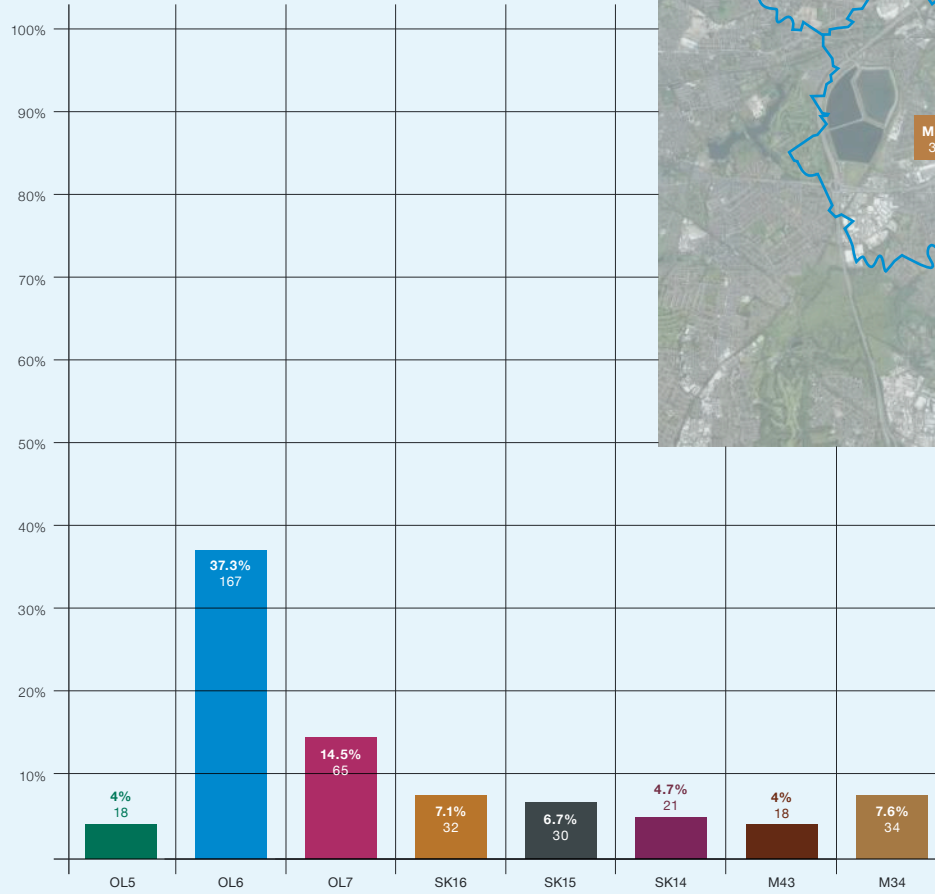
- Members are keen for proposals to consider future expansion of public realm and accessibility to the market square from all available public transport locations and car parks.
- Future maintenance strategy and long-term financial commitment is needed for Town Centres, beyond LUF investment and one-off monies.

Q1 Do you live in Ashton?

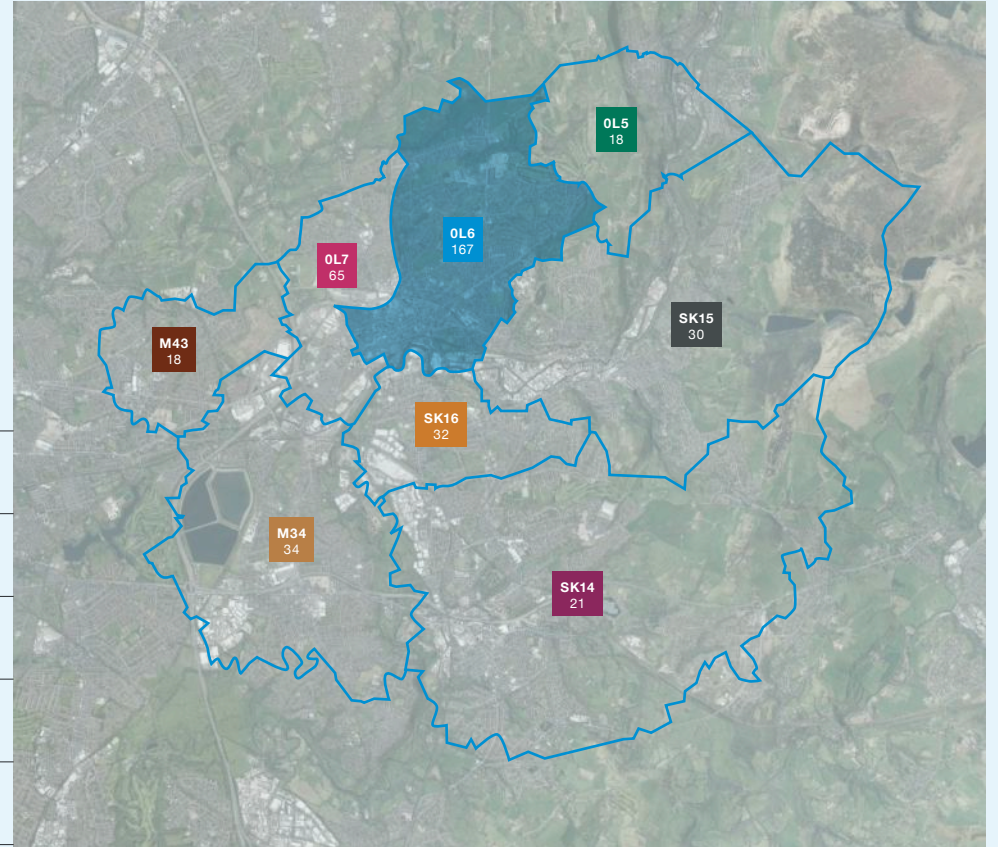


ANSWERED 551
SKIPPED 5

Q14 What is your postcode?



ANSWERED 448
SKIPPED 108

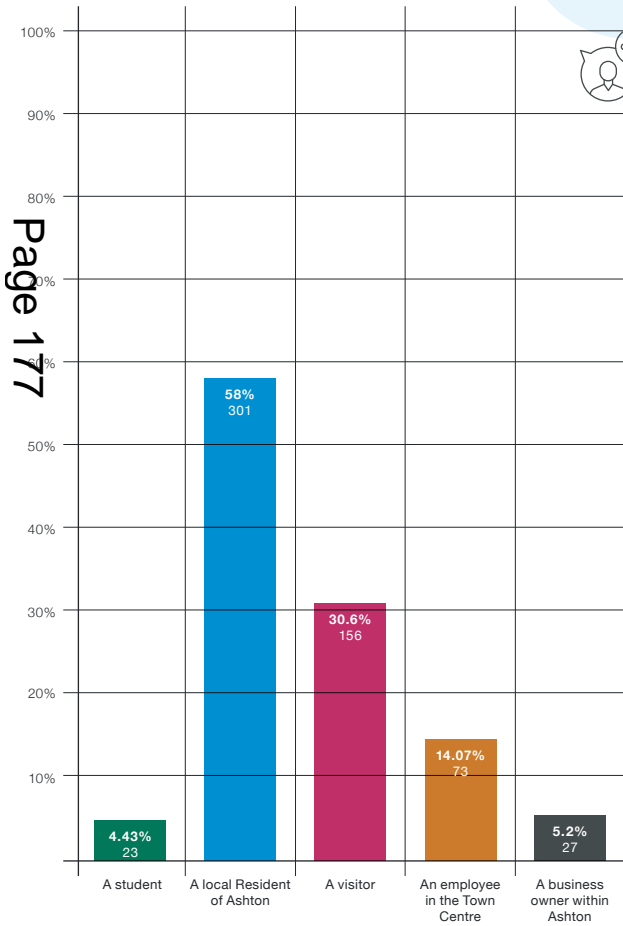


Q2

What is your interest in Ashton Market Square? Are you...



31
stated they
visit Ashton
often

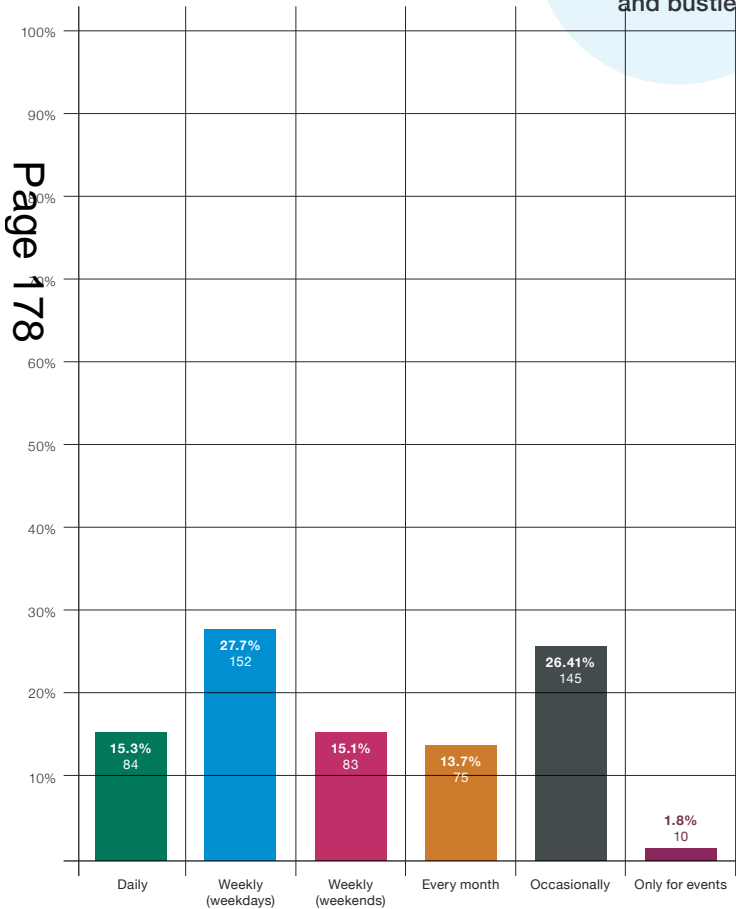


ANSWERED 519
SKIPPED 37

Q3

How often do you visit Ashton Market Square?

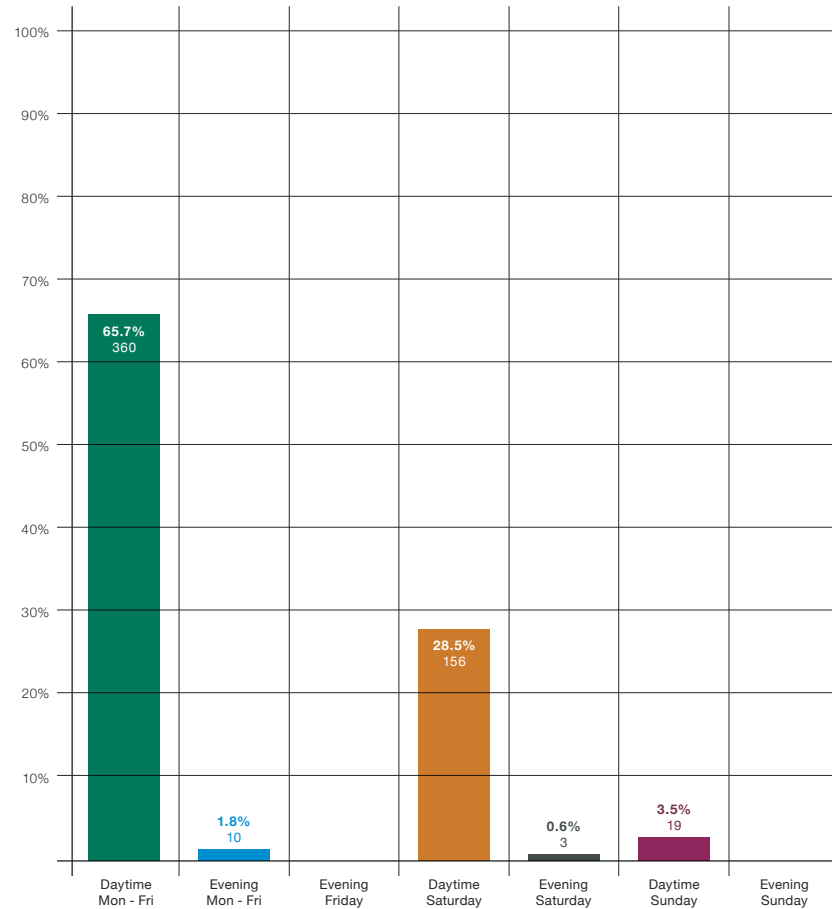
My favourite thing about Ashton is the indoor market and the hustle and bustle



ANSWERED 549
SKIPPED 7

Q4

When do you usually visit Ashton Market Square?



ANSWERED 548
SKIPPED 8

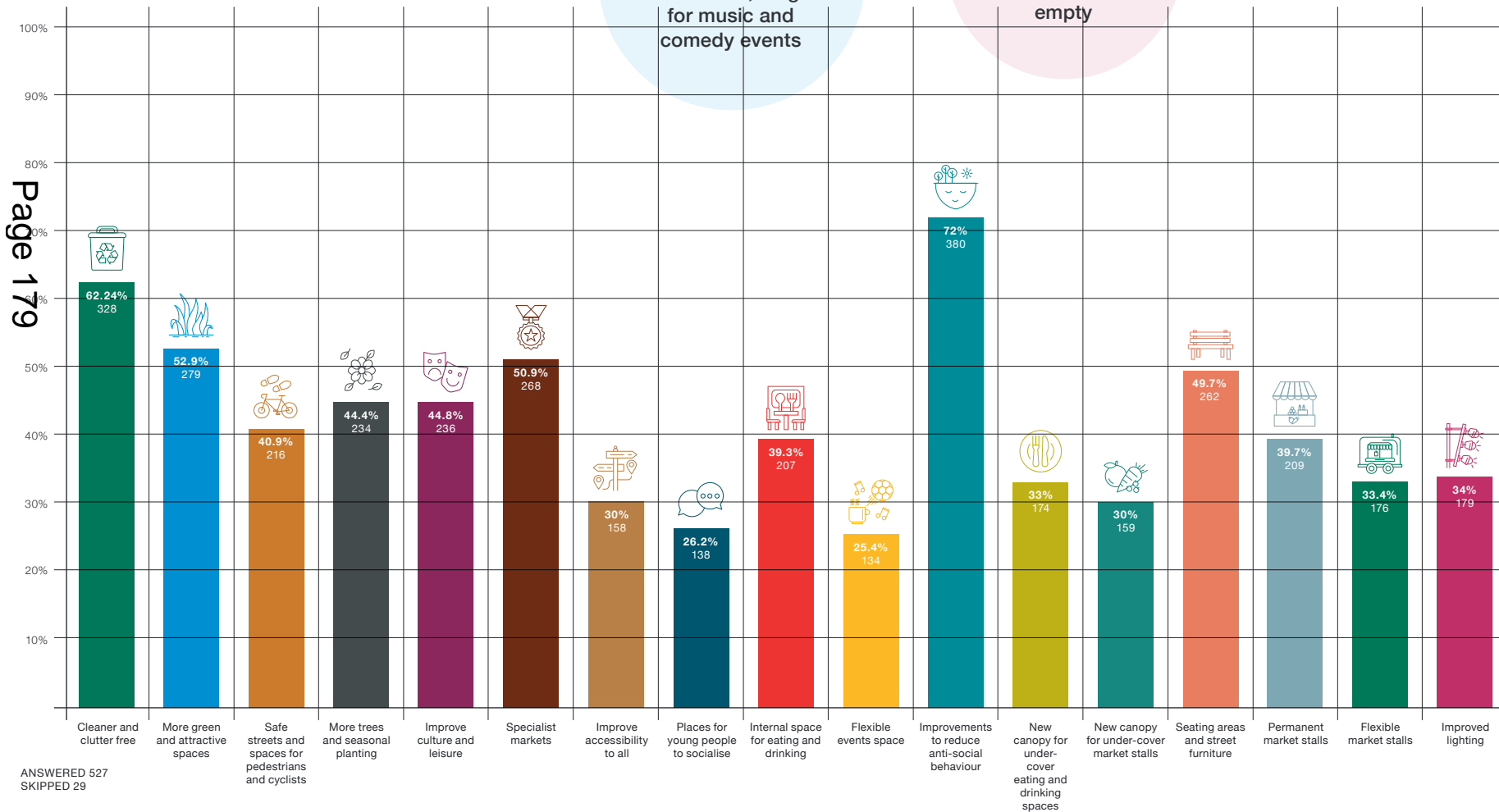
Q5 How would you like Ashton Market Square to be changed?

People seem frustrated about previous projects which haven't been completed in Ashton therefore have little positivity for future endeavours. They have mentioned Altrincham Market, Stockport Market, Bury Market and HATCH as places they visit more often than their local Ashton Market.

Consideration for people with autism and other learning disabilities

Sporting activities, interactive events, seasonable family attractions, stage for music and comedy events

Ensure the space is well used - it currently feels uncomfortably empty



ANSWERED 527
SKIPPED 29

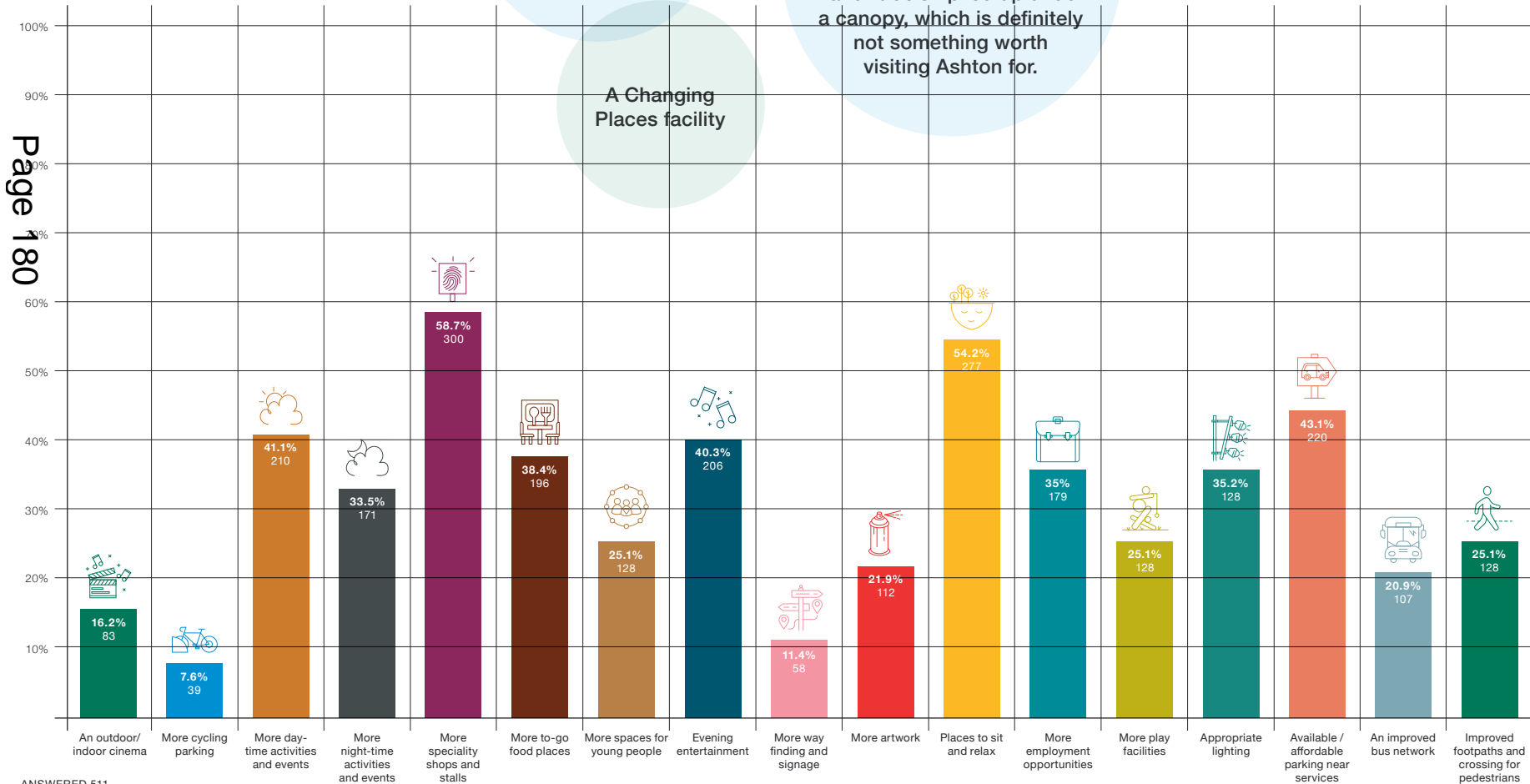
Q6

What do you think is missing from Ashton Market Square?

Re-open the hippodrome theatre and cinema - happy times spent there with family and friends

Some quality control as to what market vendors are selling and setting up. The majority of vendors are now selling second hand rubbish piled up under a canopy, which is definitely not something worth visiting Ashton for.

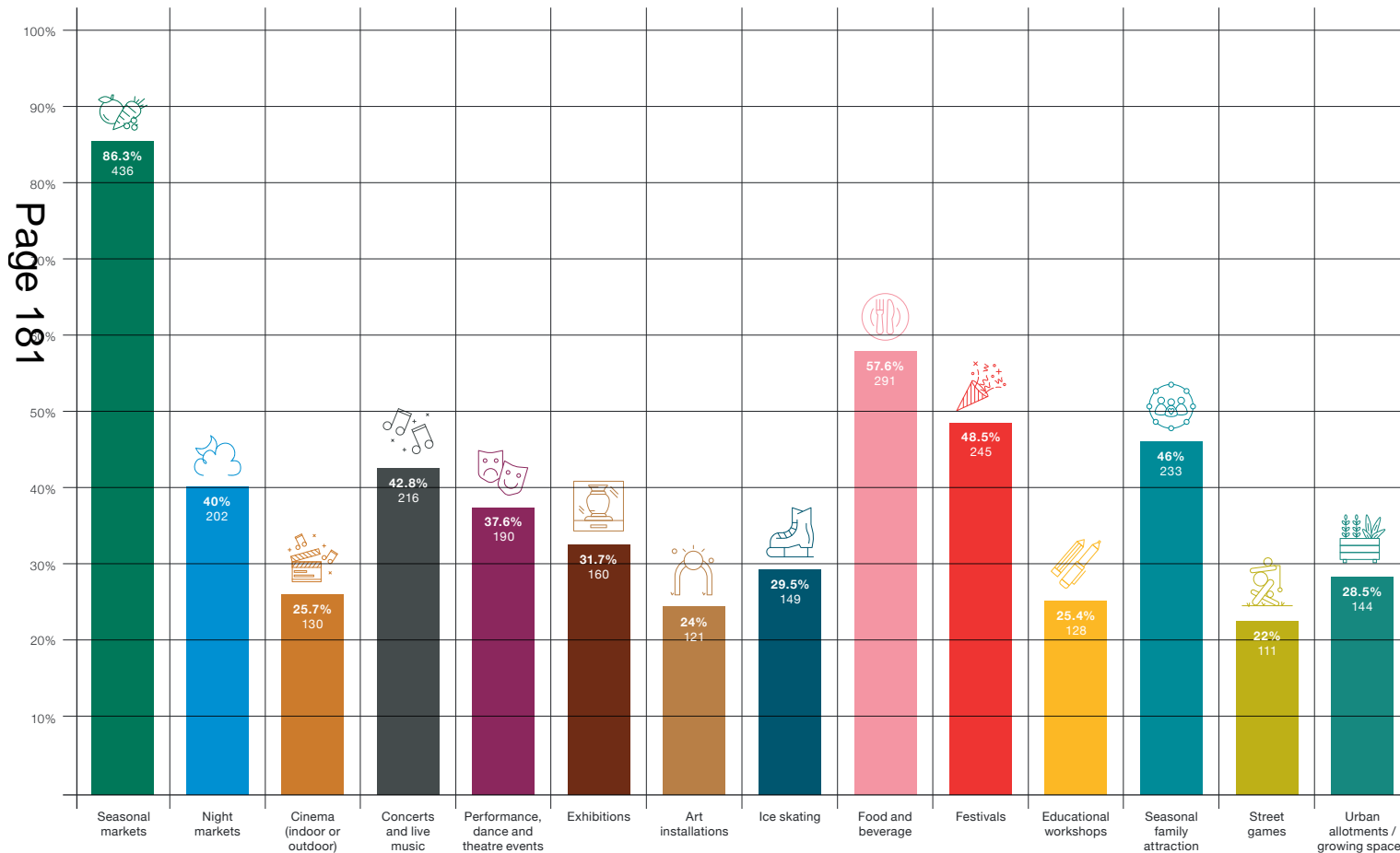
A Changing Places facility



ANSWERED 511
SKIPPED 45

Q7

What kind of events/activities would you like to see in Ashton Market Square?



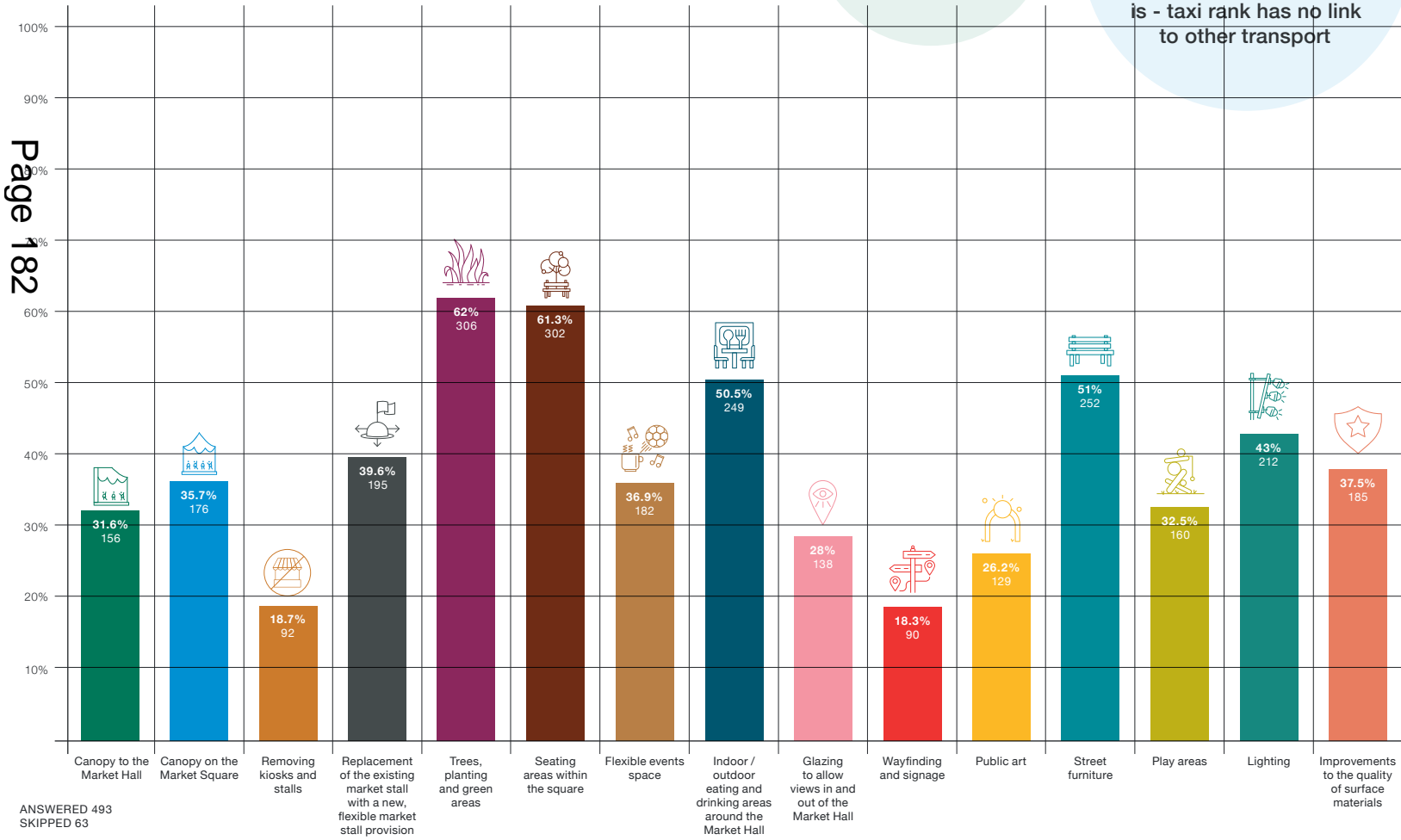
ANSWERED 505
SKIPPED 51

Q8

Looking at the consultation material, which features of the draft proposal for the market square do you agree with?

An 'escape to freight island' sort of venue would be great & make a fortune!

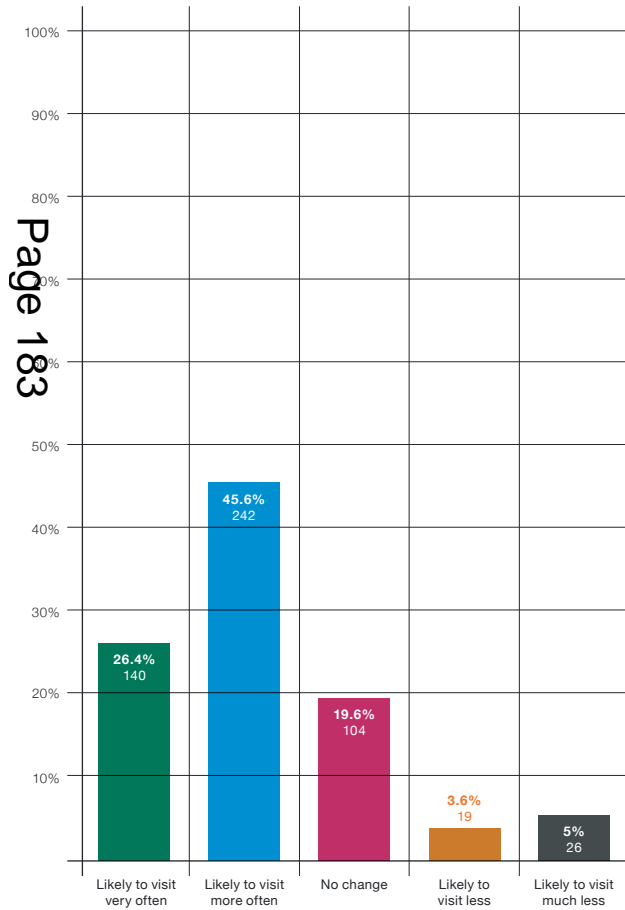
Coherent transport hub linking tram / bus / taxis / bike hubs with Market Sq - at moment new arrivals have no clue where centre of Ashton is - taxi rank has no link to other transport



ANSWERED 493
SKIPPED 63

Q9

How often are you likely to visit the Ashton town centre if the changes to the Market Square were implemented?



ANSWERED 531
SKIPPED 25

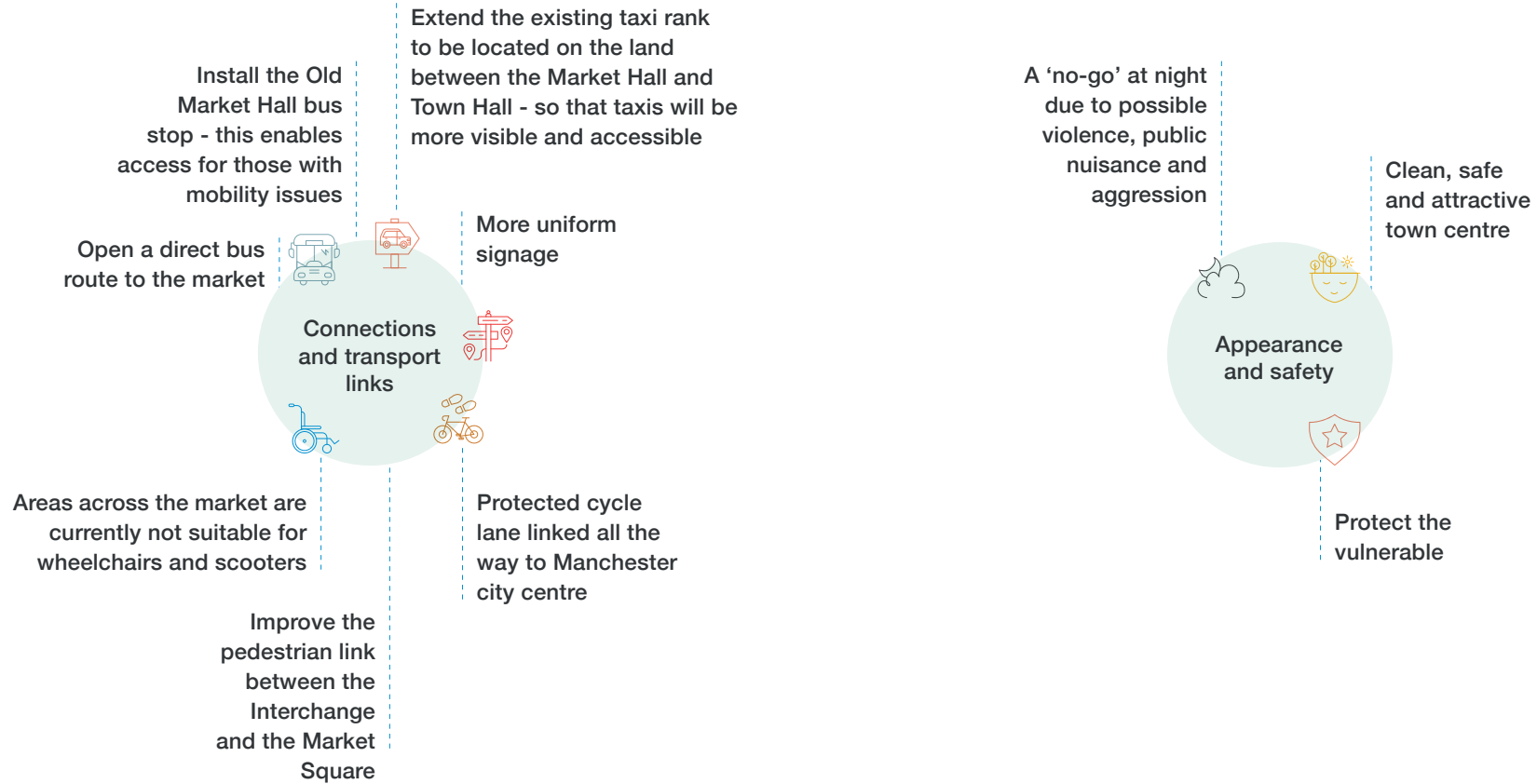
Q10

Please use this space for any other feedback, ideas or suggestions.

These will help us to shape the project as it progresses.

"Give us something to be proud of"

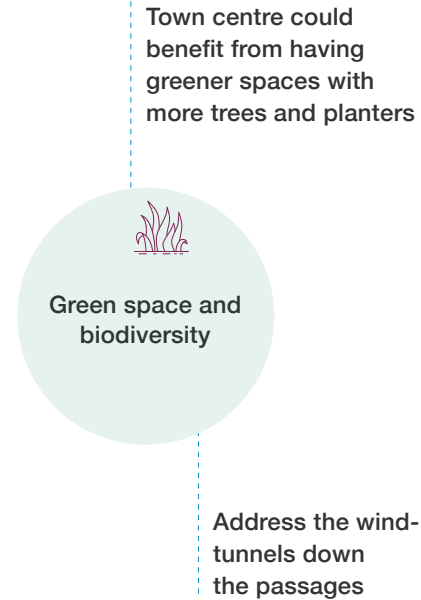
Page 184



"Small businesses will be integral to the success of the town going forward."



"I would definitely visit more in the evening if more things were going on"



"New kiosk style premises are needed - why not et a Tameside businesses involved in the design - get the new kiosks made in Tameside."

Key considerations

A number of consistent themes and important considerations emerged across the various consultation sessions, which must be incorporated into the next stage of proposals and are summarised;

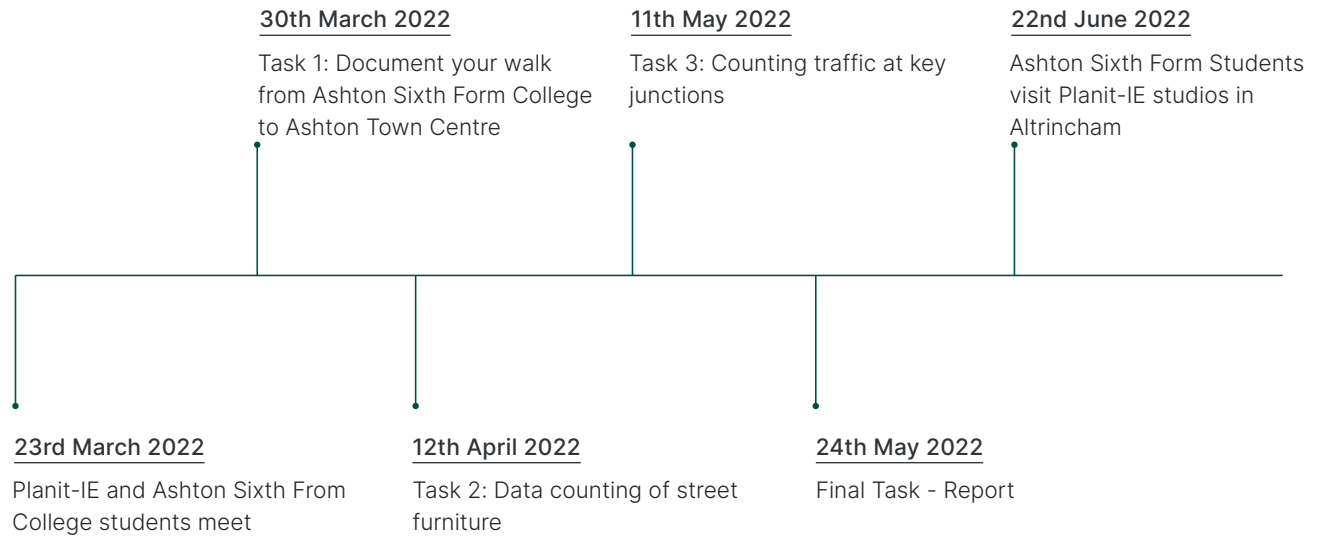
- Review location of play area within the Market Square.
- Consider the current, significant antisocial behaviour issues in design.
- Consider safety and inclusive design for children, youth, girls and minority groups.
- Consider the needs of students/teenagers and invite their active use of the town centre.
- Accessibility for less able-bodied and review location of public transport on Wellington Road.
- Review of taxi rank location and size in relation to sustainability, placemaking and transport strategies.
- Review flexibility of kiosks and market days in relation to overall programming of the square.
- Incorporate design recommendations/ requirements from kiosk traders relating to kiosk design, storage and servicing.
- Factor in environmental conditions to the design, particularly westerly wind and rain.
- Devise an F&B strategy.
- Incorporate heritage interpretation within design of the public realm.
- Devise strategy for long-term management and maintenance of proposals beyond delivery timescale.
- Review sustainable urban drainage approach in response to local climatic conditions, which are likely to intensify.
- Establish a governance strategy to ensure project transparency and good communication between stakeholders and Tameside Council.

Social Value



Ashton Sixth Form College Work Experience

As part of the commission for the Public Realm and Movement Strategy for Ashton, taking part in social value activities with local facilities was important in the process. A six-part engagement with local AS-Level Geography students at Ashton College informed the strategy work.



Task One

Purpose

Understanding the length, time of day, mode of travel and appearance of the journey for students from their home to Ashton Sixth Form College.

Outcome

On the following pages Students 1-5 have illustrated and documented their journeys. From Task One's documentation and insight we can identify the problem sites within their journey and areas of opportunity e.g. spaces for dwelling and enjoying the sun. This analysis helps inform the public realm strategy proposals.

Page 189

Green patches and trees planted along the pavement - makes area look more welcoming

More green space but trampled on with no use (maybe a few benches and plants)

Large green space area but full of little and grass get trampled on - could be utilised with benches and plants to make it more welcoming

Dangerous busy road with no lights or crossing ... people just chance walking past when the lights change

Uneven pavement and fencing is rotting

Nice area outside nursery with benches and plants and a bin so no litter

Nice large park but is full of litter and isn't kept up with (outdated)

Fence has been broken for a few weeks, unsafe for those who live on row of houses - homes have less privacy

Student 1

Overall, it was clear that from my route to college (around 25 minute walk) there was significant lack of green spaces and bins which contribute to large amounts of litter being left on the pavements. It was also clear that even though there was some green spaces, they were not being used efficiently meaning they are being walked on by the public and become an 'eye sore' for the local community. This could be improved by utilising green spaces already in place and adding pathways, gardens and/or benches which will attract the community to use these areas rather than walk past or over them. This could also increase community engagement in Ashton.



Student 2

Every college day, I take the 346 Stagecoach service from Hyde into Ashton, stopping at Glebe Street to embark on an approximately 10 minute walk at a steady incline to Ashton Sixth Form. From Glebe Street, I walk across the pedestrian crossings to near where Armstrong’s Office Furniture is; I continue to stroll towards to the Penny Meadow junction where in which lies an island between several sides of traffic with some greenspace for local residents to perhaps walk their dogs. However, this greenspace is not the most appealing space for someone to use- for instance, the fact that on all four corners of the island there is a busy road which may be difficult to escape in the event of someone being threatened by street crime.

Despite the presence of litter bins, these seem to have insignificant effect since litter is often discarded on the grass or the pavement. Pedestrians often feel uneasy about using the crossing from the Penny Meadow island at Neal Avenue since there is not a traffic light to direct when pedestrians can safely cross the two lanes of traffic before reaching a small traffic island.

Upon crossing at Mossley Road, I continue walking across the same pavement, crossing at small crossings such as at the industrial park and at Tesco Express. When at the convenience store at Mossley Road, I turn right to walk down Curzon Road which then leads me directly to Ashton Sixth Form College. Curzon Road- a residential street- is often covered in litter from college students using the convenience store for snacks and it could be suggested that improvements to the street’s bins need to be made in order to accommodate for the litter.

After finishing a college day, I tend to stick to the same route as outlined before although when near to Armstrong’s Office Furniture, I sometimes use the Cricket’s Lane shortcut if I believe I may be late for my bus home at the Penny Meadow Bus Stop. I usually only use this shortcut during a well-lit day since I am wary of the potential dangers that come with taking this route.



Ashton's Memorial Gardens

Whilst this garden is usually pleasant to pass, I regularly see it not being used by local residents.



Street landscaping near Crickets Lane

This street landscaping provides a boundary between the commercial building of Armstrong's Office Furniture, some terraced houses and the A670.



Discarded waste on the side of the road

We could may be view this is as a sign that local residents do not feel invested or have pride in the area that they live in.



Penny Meadow green space

In the Spring, this green space is usually nice to walk down alone, however if there is anybody in the communal sitting area, I tend to avoid this green space to walk on the pavement instead. It's shame because it is quite sweet to see daffodils and greenery in a deprived urban area.



Dangerous Penny Meadow crossing

This crossing with a large island in the middle between two lanes is unpleasant to walk on. Many pedestrians report that this crossing is unsafe, saying that they would want to see a pedestrian crossing nearby so the mostly young people using this crossing do not fear being hit by a car walking to or from college.

After the first set of difficult roads to cross, there is another very wide road, and traffic in all directions. You can see these people just go, and cars have to wait for us, which is obviously not very safe.

Problem continues when you make it across the first part of the road, the middle crossing still has traffic in all directions and very wide/busy.

Closest bus down to Ashton from college- helps busy roads be less people busy which is probably safer.

I do think the park area in between is nice instead of all road, but no one goes in here often other than to walk through.

Problem roads: very wide and difficult to cross. Traffic from all directions, including buses and large trucks.

These issues could be more problematic for the two school nearby, as although unsafe for adults/ us at college, even worse for school children.

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Student 3

For me, my journey to college is fairly simple. When I get the 348 bus from Stalybridge to Stamford street in Ashton, the route is easy and I feel not much could be improved. However, my regular journeys to Ashton are where more issues lie. On the journey from college to Ashton town centre, the main issues are the roads. Some of the 'crossings', notably Mosley road and the junctions with Neal ave and Beaufort road. These crossing places are extremely wide, with cars coming from up to 4 or 5 directions.

This is especially dangerous at peak times, such as 3-4 when schools and colleges finish. I think this road would be specifically hard for younger children, even when with an adult, as there is multiple nurseries and primary's schools nearby, along with the 2 colleges in close proximity.

I think these issues are quite important, as safety is a major concern. When in Ashton town centre, it is not particularly appealing, and I think there is no real purpose to go, other than a practical reason such as going to buy something specific.

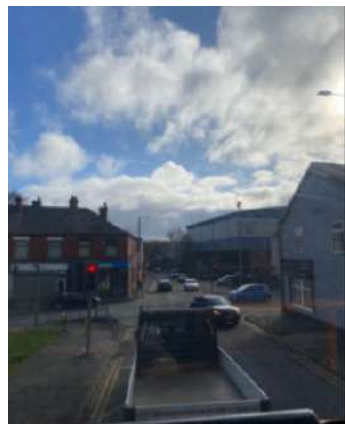
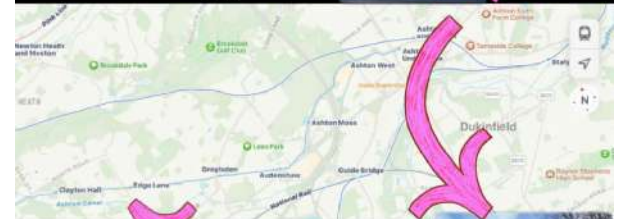
However, I think that there is more of an appeal for older people, as I would say pensioners are the main demographic of Ashton town centre. I personally think the market hall could be more "special" as I feel it used to be more of the focal point of the city centre. The bus station, since its renovation, is very easy to use and has good connections to the rest of Manchester and surrounding areas.

Student 4

Every morning I take the 231 Stagecoach bus from Clayton Hall which then drops me right outside college on Darnton Road for me to then attend. However on my journey home I take a different route. From college, I walk into Ashton town centre, which is an approximate 10-15 minute walk. I then get the 216 Stagecoach bus from the service interchange which then drops back off at Clayton Hall bus stop and I finish my journey by walking the remainder home.

My journey to and from college is fairly straightforward. However, walking through Ashton and into the town centre on my way home is where I feel there are some particular areas in need of attention.

For example, the roads are extremely hectic at the average time of finishing college (4pm) with cars approaching from numerous directions due to the wide roads with various stopping islands in the middle. For me, this is a concern especially as there are primary schools in close proximity along with two colleges. It's extremely difficult to cross these roads and I have witnessed many students struggling to do so on a daily basis. Ashton town centre has a great sense of community with music playing as you walk through, despite particular areas looking slightly worn-down and derelict. A final point to focus on, is the outdated advertisements located at the crossroads at New Market Road with a company car that has been dominated by overgrown weeds etc. This could be considered an eyesore to the public, especially as it's a very popular route for everyday commutes, and public transport, as my bus also takes this route. However, overall there are many green space areas for people to enjoy whilst on the journey to and from college which looks appealing to the public.





Student 5

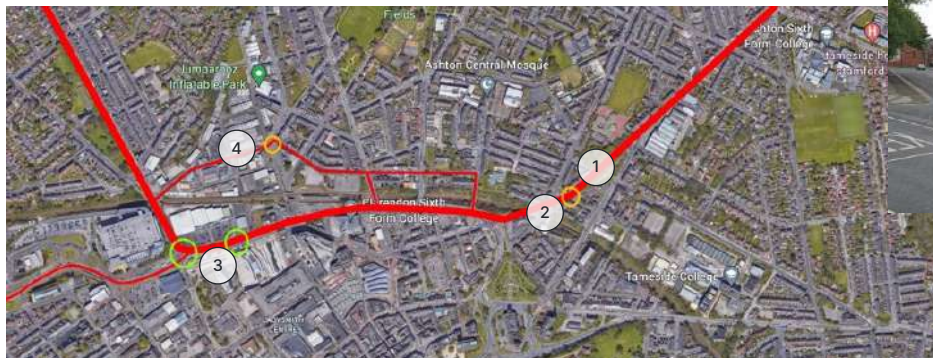
1. Green space (island) – this area could be seen as an integral part of the Ashton community despite its benign significance upon first glance however, after observing this area since the last meeting I have seen a wealth of activity and opportunity to socialise on the benches and grass/gravel paths. This almost acts as a way to deter people from walking near the main road. Furthermore, throughout last year the community has taken great of the wild/planted flora (suggesting green space with social amenities acts as the pride of the community or even a space for people to built community ties, much like an allotment) suggesting that if we were to replicate the much needed green space within Ashton town centre in similar ways we could see an improvement in environmental quality (which is one of the seven domains of inequality).

2. This is a major pedestrian road hazard due to the width of the road itself. This area takes approximately 7-10 seconds to cross which is quite long especially silly when there is no safe way to cross (zebra crossing, traffic lights etc). Additionally, in this area the cars all have right away and so there is no clear place to safely cross, thus putting the lives of people at risk possibly from dangerous driving or even careless behaviour when crossing the road. Over the two years I have been at college I have seen many people struggle to cross this intersection as cars very rapidly come towards you as they pull off from a main road.

3. In my opinion this area has great pedestrian flow and great traffic control. The traffic lights don't cause much congestion throughout the day other than rush hour (approximately 17:00-18:30) and during the mornings as I am coming into Ashton from Failsworth (8:00-9:00). Although the pedestrian flow is somewhat optimal these key hours of commuting cause degradation in terms of environmental quality (air pollution) and possibly stress levels (although this hasn't been directly correlated with chronic symptoms of stress) there is reason to believe this is true.

4. This area is around the residential inner town centre regions and reflects one of many similar states. Many of these rows are littered with rubbish and in this case is prone to industrial tipping and fly tipping. Opportunist crimes such as these are damaging the spirits of the community as there is a sense of dismay for their shared environment, which is simply not true for the majority (the minority commits environmental crimes in these residential areas).

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Task Two

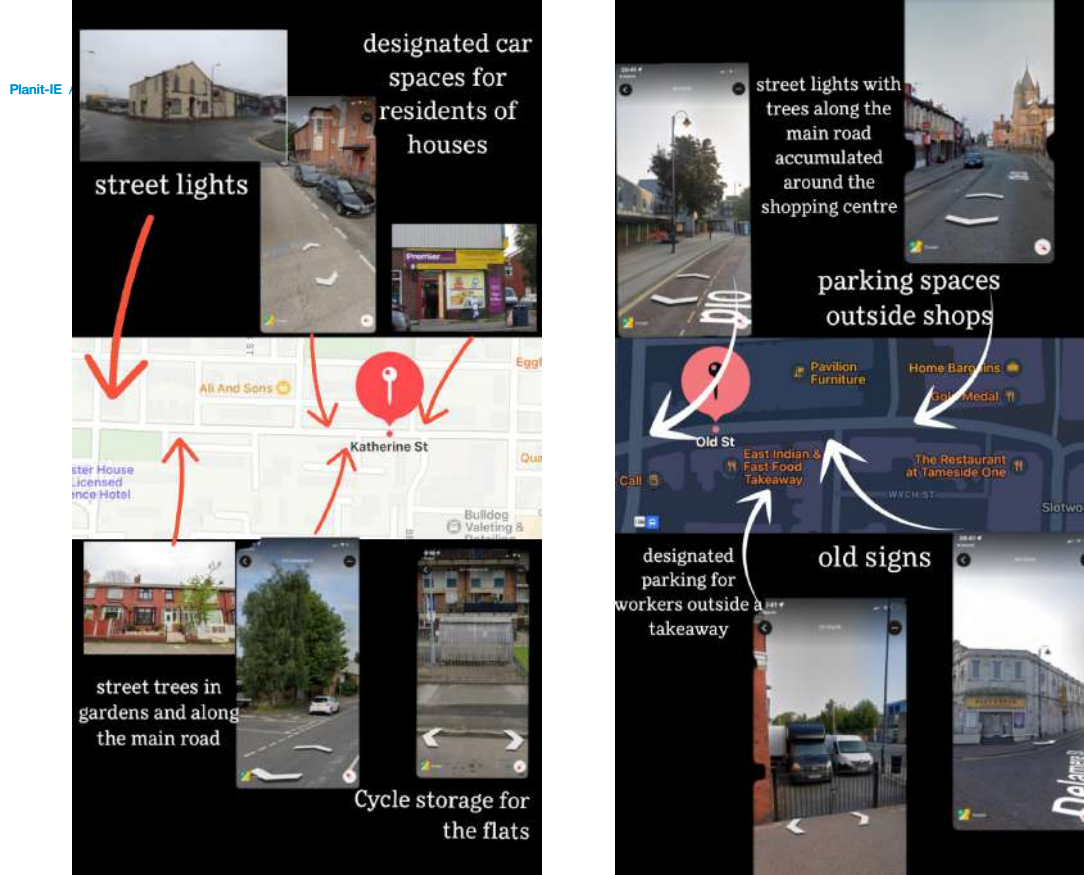
Purpose

Data counting of street furniture in two groups in specific streets and spaces. Taking note of the;

- Number of cycle storage / parking places
- Number of on-street parking spaces – along streets (how many parking spaces along the street)
- Number of wayfinding signs (to help you navigate around the town centre, directing you to other places in Ashton)
- Number of street lights
- Number of sculptures in the street / Art Installations / Murals on the Wall
- Number of benches / seating areas
- Number of loading bays
- Number of taxi ranks
- Number of street trees

Outcome

On the following pages Groups One and Two documented their findings. From Task Two's insight we can identify the streets and spaces which require more thought and consideration for planting, benches and cycle parking etc.



Group One

Street furniture	Katherine Street	Old Street	Market Street
Street trees	23	12	15
Benches	-	-	-
Taxi parking	1	0	1
Cycle storage	1	0	0
On-street parking	100	0	10
Wayfinding / signage	5	3	3
Art installations	0	2	2
Loading bays	4	3	3
Street lighting	15	7	4

Group Two

Street furniture	Percentage of total street furniture items
Street trees	18.6%
Benches	12.6%
Taxi parking	0.6%
Cycle storage	2.6%
On-street parking	32.6%
Wayfinding / signage	4%
Art installations	2.6%
Loading bays	2%
Street lighting	24%

"The results of this task were fairly expected, and the main finding/ issue was the lack of way finding signs, especially to main points such as the train station. Throughout the town centre, signs were few and far between, and some were fairly unclear/ unreadable. Although Ashton is easy to find your way round, especially because I don't think people who don't live near, ever come to Ashton, if improvements in Ashton did turn the town centre into more of a 'destination', there is few signs to direct people. However, I think this is an easy fix during renovations, as signs can be placed in key locations to ease movement around the centre."

Student 3

"I specifically was tasked at counting car parking spaces, bicycle parking and wayfinding signs. My findings were that there were plenty of car parking spaces (32.6% of the street furniture on the five streets happened to be car parking) with some occupied as we surveyed on a Sunday afternoon. Only 4% of the street furniture items were wayfinding signs which suggests that pedestrians use the centre of Ashton regularly enough to know where they need to go without the need of wayfinding signs to guide them. Perhaps an increase in safe and secure bicycle parking or storage would encourage cycling in Ashton which could have the potential to carbon reduce emissions from cars since Ashton's air quality does need to improve (Ashton has a PM2.5 concentration is 2.2x higher than the WHO annual air quality guideline value according to IQAir.com)."

Student 2

"It was clear that Market Square was the only location that was focused on when designing this area. This meaning that other areas ,especially Wellington Street, are neglected causing them to be areas which would generally be avoided by the local community. Because of the features that Ashton is lacking, this may cause individuals to travel through Ashton rather than it being a destination location. If a number of art installation, street trees, benches and other forms of visually pleasing vegetation where added (for example community gardens), this may make Ashton a more attractive area, causing community interaction to increase."

Student 1

Street furniture	Market Square	Stamford Street	George Street	Market Street	Wellington Street
Street trees	8	1	0	19	0
Benches	12	0	0	7	0
Taxi parking	1	0	0	0	0
Cycle storage	4	0	0	0	0
On-street parking	15	34	0	0	0
Wayfinding / signage	3	1	1	0	1
Art installations	1	0	0	3	0
Loading bays	1	1	0	0	1
Street lighting	22	3	5	4	2

Task Three

Purpose

Movement analysis in two separate groups at specified key junctions for 30minutes - 1 hour, recording the time of day and a tally count of cars, cyclists and pedestrians. And using online tools understanding traffic data; what are the peak times for traffic through the week.

Outcome

On the following pages Groups One and Two documented their findings. From Task Three's insight we can identify the amount and type of traffic in and around Ashton. Identifying the junctions which are causing the highest amount of congestion and pollution will help with the public realm strategy to determine methods to reduce reliance on cars and provide public transport which will ease congestion.

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We used two physical counters to count pedestrians and cars. And an online counter to count cyclist.

Katherine street Oldham road junction had lots of cars and buses, but crossing were safe as each section of the road had red/green men. It was very well laid out for pedestrians with good routes around the junction.

The IKEA junction is very busy as the data shows, but again it is easy to cross due to lots of red/green men crossings.

Again for the Henrietta street junction, it is easy to cross as there is a pedestrian crossing.

The station crossing was the most difficult to cross as there is cars from 3 directions but no

Group One

Junction	Cars	Pedestrians	Cyclists
Katherine Street (Katherine St and Oldham Rd junction)	556	68	6
IKEA (large cross roads junction to the corner of IKEA)	113	216	2
Station (Road parallel to Albion Way and Turner Lane, down the side of the main train station)	298	17	1
Hen Street (junction of Albion Way and the side road, Henrietta St)	224	23	1

Group Two

Memorial Gardens Junction (opposite the Crickets Lane clinic)

Time observed	Cars	Vans	Taxis	Buses
15 minutes	139	27	11	8
Est. 1 hour	556	108	44	32

Penny Meadow Junction (opposite the funeral directors)

Time observed	Cars	Vans	Taxis	Buses
15 minutes	128	21	8	8
Est. 1 hour	512	84	32	32

"During my trip to count and assess traffic at various junctions, we found that the majority of vehicles are cars and buses, especially near Katherine street which, is a key bus route towards Manchester.

Despite the busyness of the IKEA junction, Katherine street, Henrietta street and the train station, pedestrians are able to easily move around, as the crossings are well laid out with red/green crossing symbols, as well as the noises and beeps for visually impaired pedestrians. Although it can take some time to cross the junctions, especially IKEA as there is around 5 different points to make it to the other side, I believe there are few elements that could be improved as it is safe, if you follow the crossings and their symbols. Personally, I prefer to wait longer at crossings because it is safe, but many people do 'chance' the roads. The only road/junction (which I surveyed) that was hard to cross, is parallel to the train station. This road does not have a designated crossings or red/green symbols, and with traffic coming from 3 directions, can be difficult to cross. Due to this being a key crossing point for onward journeys from the station to the town centre, Ikea/Sainsbury's/ Marks and Spencers, the bus station and the short row of shops on the way to Ikea (Oldham Road.) I believe this is an easy fix with a crossing aid such as red/green man, as there are already traffic lights.

Student 3

"From the data collected at the Junctions at Penny Meadow and Memorial Gardens, this suggests to us that the main mode of transport throughout Ashton is cars on both junctions, it also shows us that there were little to no cyclists and that motorcycles were rarely spotted. This could suggest that we need to focus on making cycling more attractive to the community within Ashton and provide some forms of incentives (for example more bike storage facilities that are accessible – we know they are in short supply from Task 2). This would also decrease the carbon emissions produced in Ashton which would overall benefit air quality and Ashton's carbon footprint."

Student 1

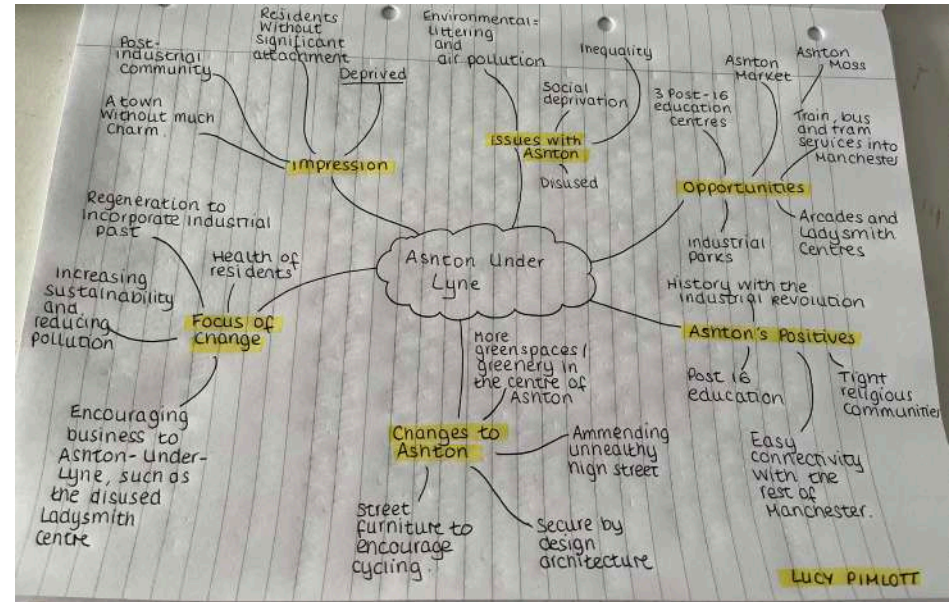
Task Four - summary findings

Purpose

A summary of all the tasks set and the main findings for each student, in the form of;

- A mindmap
- A 'mental map' / memory plan / map
- Written summary of each task

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Focus of Change

market, outdoor and indoor hall
• I really think it could be brought back to its 'former glory' eg. a go to place or 'foodie' reputation like Altrincham

Change

- outdoor market
↳ just walked past
- indoor market
↳ could be made a destination eg. 'foodie' ref.
- outdoor square
↳ currently just concrete

Positives

- market attracts older generation
↳ could be made even better
- Bus station has good lines and investment seems worth while - bus, tram, train, taxis
- Practical shops eg. supermarkets

ashton final summary

Impression

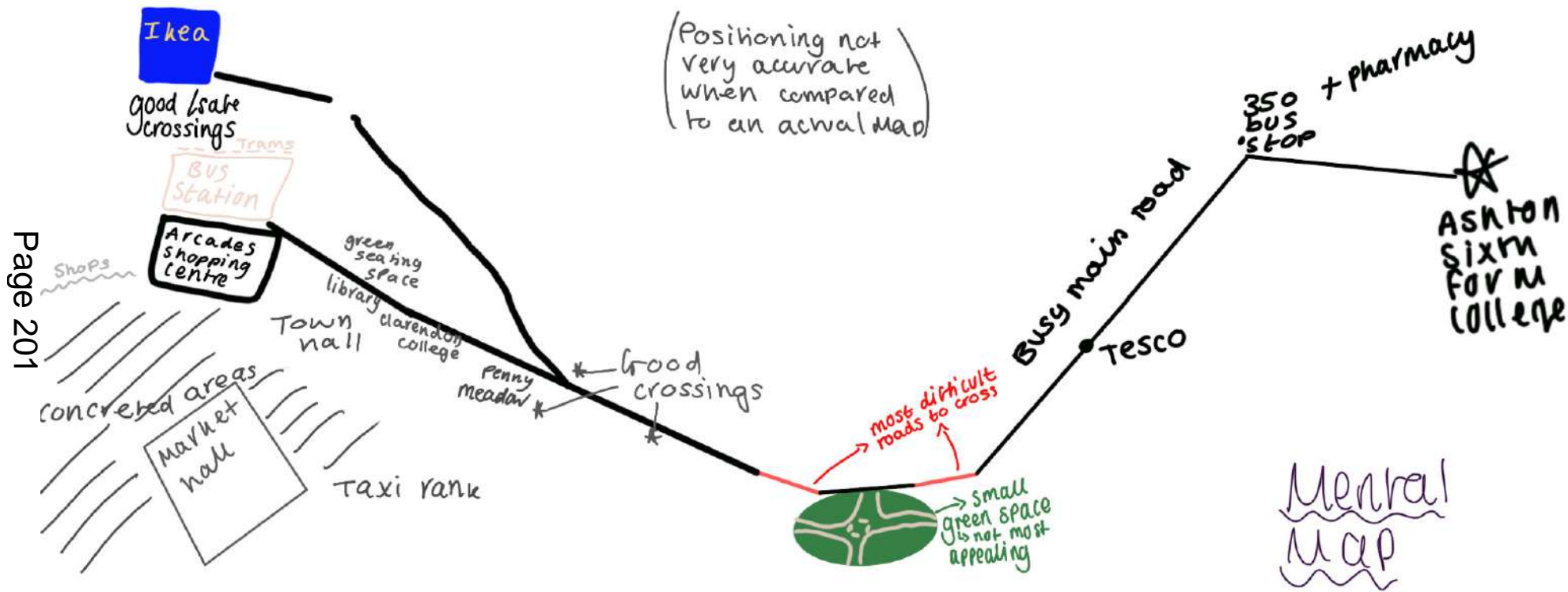
- outdated
- not particularly appealing
- Bad reputation
- Could be made nicer
- a bit rough • litter
- good travel links into Manchester.

Issues

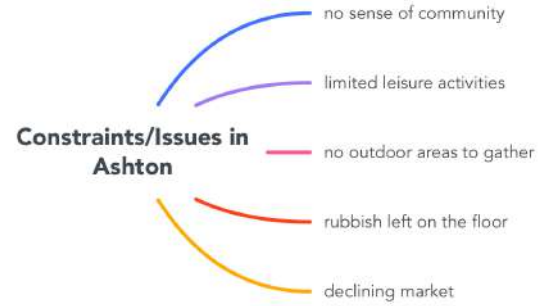
- crime reputation
- run down shops / buildings
- few appealing 'gathering' / sitting spaces
- declining town centre / market

Opportunities

- Market hall and town centre could be made more of a 'destination'
- Green spaces that are appealing and feel safe
- more visually attractive centre spaces
- updated / renovated shopping areas.



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Where do you think the focus of change should be for Ashton?



Core Findings

Engaging with the students revealed some rich insight into the physical and social elements of Ashton. Key themes emerged which are indicators of place quality and should inform priority areas for investment and intervention.

Care and maintenance

- Poor upkeep and management contributes to a sense of neglect.
- Issue of littering, notably from students using convenience stores and takeaways.

Natural space

- Lack of and poor quality greenspaces. Many seen as functionless, left-over spaces.
- Opportunity to build on existing community action and involve residents in the management of community green spaces to foster better sense of ownership and a more resilient and meaningful stewardship of the public realm.

Identity and belonging

- Ashton town centre currently caters to a limited, older demographic, not representative of the diversity of Ashton.
- Need to attract a range of demographics and age groups to the town centre, and capitalise on the student demographic who currently frequent the town centre after college, but are poorly provisioned for in terms of amenities.

Streets and spaces

- Lack of public realm design consideration for key streets and spaces beyond Market Square e.g. Wellington Street.
- Need to think beyond core space and how ancillary spaces are crucial to curating a range of environments that support the core.

Feeling safe and Social interaction

- Students report discomfort and a perceived lack of safety in some spaces.
- The most effective way of combating unsafe spaces is through activation and natural surveillance.
- Public realm interventions are opportunities to maximise the potential for community formation and sociability.

Traffic and parking

- Predominance of cars as modal choice negatively impacts on place quality, particularly with primary roads creating barriers to active travel.
- Excess of surface parking within town centre negatively impacts on place quality, creating urban voids and car-dominated secondary streets.

Moving around

- Pedestrian desire lines are not designed into highways infrastructure, which prioritises the car.
- The result is a 'car is king' culture twinned with difficult and dangerous crossings - particularly those connecting a number of schools, colleges and nurseries with the town centre.
- Convoluted and unintuitive pedestrian crossing infrastructure, and a prevalence of pedestrians 'chancing it' at unmanaged crossing points, with clear safety issues.
- Wayfinding is less of an issue since Ashton predominantly attracts local and repeat visitors who are familiar with the town's layout.
- More important to invest in improving the pedestrian experience and safety; and in quality ancillary public spaces and key streets.
- Low rates of cycling is compounded by a lack of cycle infrastructure.



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+44 (0)113 824 6413

Liverpool
+44 (0)151 363 1230

London
+44 (0)207 253 5678

Manchester
+44 (0)161 928 9281

Standish
+44 (0)145 360 7080



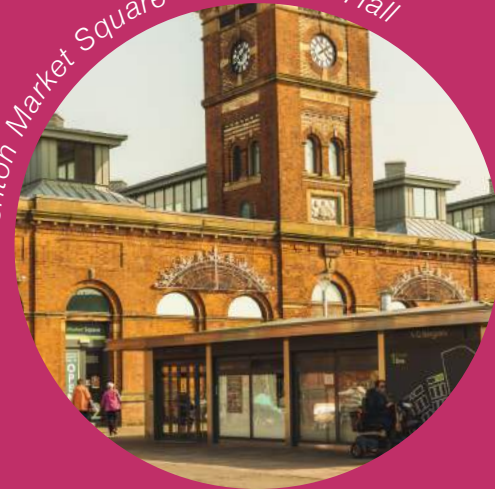
A Public Realm Strategy

for Ashton-under-Lyne

Phase 1 - Market Square

A catalyst for further regeneration

Ashton Market Square and Market Hall



Introduction

This Public Realm Strategy has been produced by Planit-IE on behalf of Tameside Council to devise a strategy to deliver improvements to the Public Realm within the Market Square at Ashton-Under-Lyne Town Centre.

Tameside Council has commissioned the production of a Public Realm Strategy for the Market Square in consultation with Stakeholders. This is a unique opportunity to consider the vision, heritage values and character of the Market Square within the context of the wider town centre. Environmental sustainability, diversity and inclusion, health and well-being, and accessibility are highly significant contributing factors in creating a sense of place and a unique destination for Ashton Town Centre.

Phase 1 Market Square

The Public Realm Strategy will focus immediately on the Market Square, Market Hall and connecting spaces. This is Phase 1 of an overall Public Realm Strategy for the Town Centre.

The Phase 1 Market Square Strategy will include strategic plans, along with guidance and design principles to support the delivery of the Market Square vision. Future phases include the Market Fringes, Market Hall and Market Hall canopy, and will form part of the detailed design stage, up to RIBA stage 2. These areas will be excluded from the Levelling Up Fund and delivered at a later stage.

In the future a comprehensive public realm strategy will also include Stamford Street Central, Old Street and St. Michael's Square. It will incorporate proposals for Wellington Road and extend to Katherine Street, Penny Meadows, Oldham Road.

Public Realm Strategy themes

- Inclusive and accessible
- Townscape context
- Responding to heritage
- Connectivity and accessibility
- Sustainability
- Safer streets and spaces
- Culture and events
- Health and well-being
- Way-finding, lighting and signage
- Brand identity and public art

People and place focussed

Our approach is place and people focused, we started by getting to know the place in which we are working, and the people who know it best

It is about building strong relationships, identifying the priorities, gaining insight from the people and understanding of the essence of the place. This has enabled us to define the objectives, aims and ambitions of an effective Public Realm Strategy.



Catalysts for Change

There are actions happening to accelerate positive change in Ashton Town Centre that will support the economy and future growth of the town, here are the actions below:

Ashton Mayoral Development Zone

The establishment of an Ashton Mayoral Development Zone will significantly raise the profile of Ashton and Tameside, helping to position the opportunities that exist for future funding, investment and Greater Manchester support.

Mayor's Challenge Fund (MTF)

Proposals will be coordinated with concept designs for improved cycling infrastructure which have been developed under the Mayor's Challenge Fund. One of these projects is **Ashton Streetscape** (Albion Way and Wellington Road) which aims to achieve the following:

1. Segregated cycle tracks on both sides of the road.
2. A modified junction at the exit from the bus station and the Ashton retail park, to incorporate a new Cyclops arrangement, which provides segregated, signalised facilities for cyclists, to improve road safety for all road users.
3. Measures to slow and control vehicle speeds and provide enhanced priority for pedestrian users, potentially including a reduction in carriageway width, increased landscaping, different surfacing materials and the introduction of pedestrian crossing points.



Leveilling-up Fund 2021

The Council has gained further grant funding to continue this comprehensive transformation of the town centre and was successful in its £19.87m Leveilling Up Fund bid to support the next stage of regeneration.

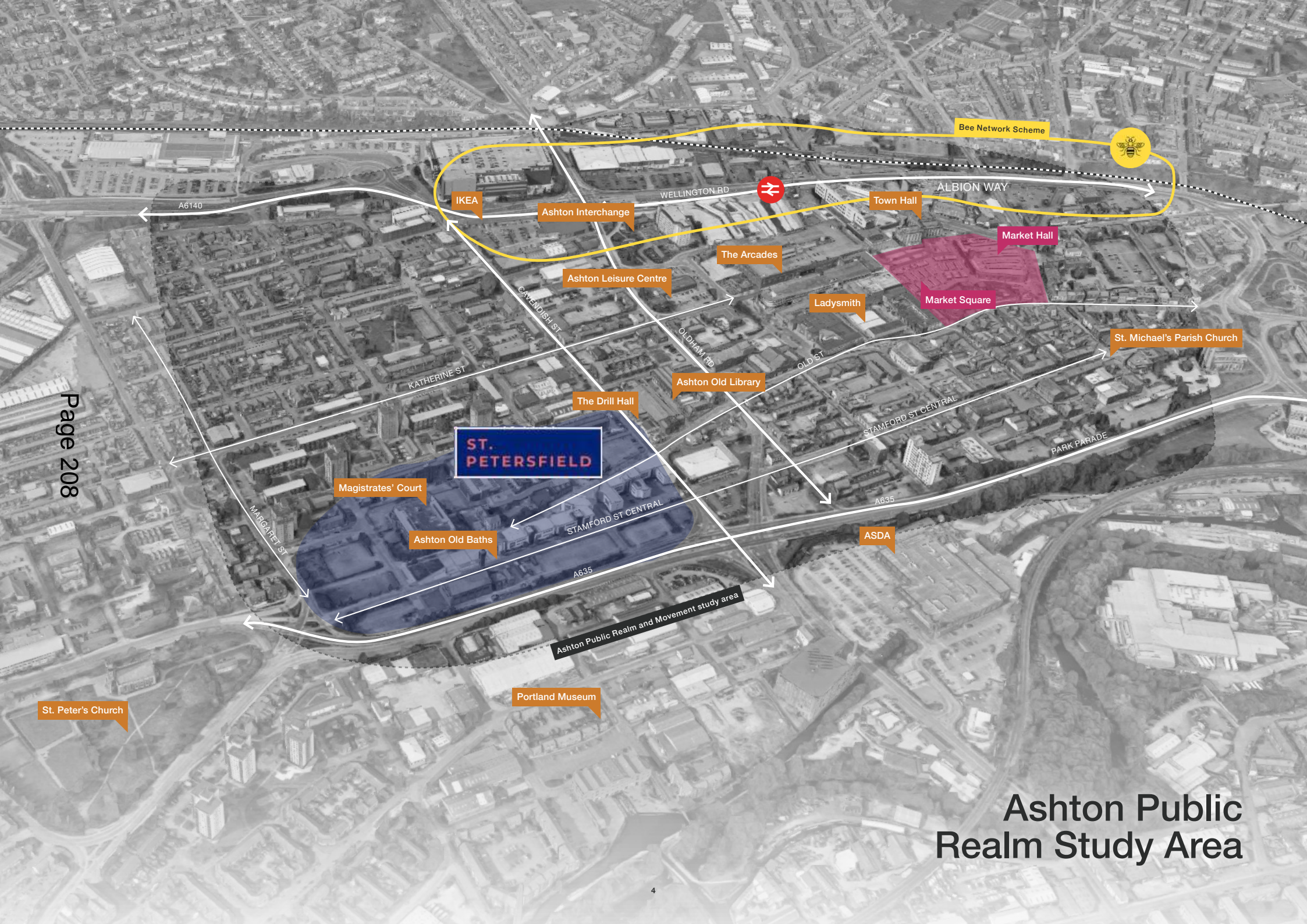
- A. Land remediation of the former interchange site
- B. Cycling and public realm improvements
- C. Restoration of Ashton Town Hall
- D. Further development of St Petersfield into a cutting edge business park for innovation and tech firms
- E. Residential, leisure and the delivery of a wider diversity of town centre uses with increased town centre living.

Wellington Road Proposals

The Wellington Road and Albion Way proposals are currently progressing and construction has started on-site. The strategy and design principles for Phase 1 Market Squares will integrate into wider proposals underway.



Visualisation of Albion Way proposals



St. Peter's Church

Portland Museum

Ashton Old Baths

Magistrates' Court

ST. PETERSFIELD

The Drill Hall

Ashton Old Library

Ladysmith

Market Square

St. Michael's Parish Church

Market Hall

Town Hall

Ashton Interchange

The Arcades

Ashton Leisure Centre

IKEA

Bee Network Scheme



ALBION WAY

WELLINGTON RD

STAMFORD ST CENTRAL

PARK PARADE

A635

STAMFORD ST CENTRAL

A635

MARGARET ST

KATHERINE ST

CAVENDISH ST

OLDHAM RD

OLD ST

A6140

Ashton Public Realm Study Area

Stage 1

Love Ashton engagement

The Love Ashton engagement event took place on Saturday 13th March 2022, at Ashton Market Hall, the feedback has shaped our plans.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council appointed Planit and Civic Engineers to undertake a Public Realm and Movement strategy for Ashton-under-Lyne Town Centre. We gathered the public's initial ideas and thoughts about how they wanted to see improvements in the town centre, the feedback has helped to shape our proposal.

Key Messages

- Market square is characterless-missing the vibrant atmosphere from the past. It should be an attraction and destination rather than a cluttered space.
- Generally unkempt, with deteriorating materials, and lack of greenery.
- Market stalls are unattractive, impractical and in bad condition.
- Safety issues in the square, related to anti-social behaviour, poor lighting and visibility.
- Accessibility from public transport should be improved, as well as connections to St. Petersfield and the rest of Ashton Town Centre.

Market stalls are unattractive and not practical

Make the area more of a community hub where meetings can take place forums and maybe even as a wedding venue.

Lack of greenery

Missing the once vibrant market stalls and atmosphere

Improve signage to the town

Residents need safe and attractive walks



Stage 2 Public Consultation

Consultation in Stage 2 focussed on the Market Square and took the form of workshops, briefings and meetings. The objectives of the consultation were to engage with key stakeholders and a wide variety of people and community groups to develop a clear local picture and to gain an insight into issues, opportunities, and future aspirations for Ashton Market Square and Market Hall.

The consultation went public with the Public Realm Strategy booklet, associated consultation boards for the public events and a questionnaire.

Following the public consultation of the Public Realm Strategy (Phase One - Market Square) in November 2022, a number of consistent themes and important considerations emerged which have been incorporated within the design principles.

“We’d like to see a better variety of trees. Could we have some the same as those in Library Square in Manchester? They have startling spring blooms.”

“It looks great, Ashton needs the investment... Ashton is ready to improve, Stamford street could be something really special again”.

“It is to be hoped that the mistakes made in developing the current Market Square can be avoided and an amenity of which Ashton can be proud can finally be realised.”

“The plans would be enhanced by a lovely sunken garden, with plenty of benches and colour.”

Feedback at Market Hall Event, Nov 2022



Market Hall Consultation Event, Nov 2022



A number of consistent themes and important considerations emerged across the various consultation sessions, which must be incorporated into the next stage of proposals and are summarised.

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Key Messages

Consultation in Stage 2 focussed on the Market Square and took the form of workshops, briefings and meetings. The objectives of the consultation were to engage with key stakeholders and a wide variety of people and community groups to develop a clear local picture and to gain an insight into issues, opportunities, and future aspirations for Ashton Market Square and Market Hall.

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Following the public consultation of the Public Realm Strategy (Phase One - Market Square) in November 2022, a number of consistent themes and important considerations emerged which have been incorporated within the design principles.

The following key messages have been incorporated into the design principles and proposals, as shown on pages 29 to 45.

Public Realm

- Play for all ages needed to attract all ages.
- Range of spaces to suit different needs, including safe spaces, quiet spaces, active spaces for play and recreation and a community hub, which should be free or cheap with passes (for students).
- Plenty of ideas for play related including Skateboarding provision for teenagers
- Provision needed for trade waste and site cleaning operation.
- Servicing access along Bow St for market traders at key times of the day
- Lighting in the evening is critical.
- Food and drink offer - night-time economy
- Mitigate westerly wind,
- Wayfinding and signage need improving
- Provision for Bike parking
- Accessibility for less able bodied and important pensioner trade
- Access for deliveries and own car to stalls
- Bus stop provision has been removed
- Outdoor seating for food stalls
- Access for people from public transport required from Wellington Road (bus routes along this road)
- Pop-up/temporary/seasonal events/offer in the market square.
- Mitigate westerly wind
- Need to establish intimate spaces and curate atmospheres of 'hustle and bustle', buzz.
- Improve drainage capacity
- Maintenance needs considering with provision and resources built in.

Kiosks

- The needs of kiosk traders must be considered.
- Fixed kiosks are required which can operate as a 'shop
- Protection from the weather, consider own canopy
- Designed for food is required
- Different sized kiosks to suit different traders– carrier for storage. 10ft by 10ft doesn't work for some uses.
- Industrial quality of finishes is required
- Intimate space – overlooked if the kiosks all face inwards, under the canopy.

Canopy

- Canopy no sides preferred for ease of cleansing and to minimise ASB Food and drink as a cluster along gallery side of canopy
- Storage to stop lots of unloading for market traders
- Outdoor seating for food stalls
- Shelter and protection from the elements - especially westerly wind and rain, summer shade - free standing roof rather than canopy

Future Vision

The aim for Ashton Town Centre is to breathe new life into the town centre and attract investment, and prosperity for years to come.

Ashton Town Centre will be known for celebrating its unique heritage and distinctive identity. A compact, well-connected, and sustainable place.

The Market Square will be the beating heart of the town; a modern market and public space enlivened by events, cafe culture and a vibrant evening economy. A friendly and welcoming place for future generations to enjoy. A destination where people can socialise and relax.



Diagram illustrating vision objectives

Our plans capture the essence of Ashton-Under-Lyne Town Centre by celebrating its history and unique assets. We have defined the opportunities and character zones to help shape a comprehensive vision for the future.

- Key
-  Linking Ashton with the River Tame and Canal green infrastructure
 -  Enhancing Ashton's cultural quarter and supporting the workforce
 -  An emerging commercial district (St Petersfield)
 -  Old Town Heart - creating a boutique retail offer, supporting the community and providing a high quality residential offer
 -  Town Centre living
 -  Extending the evening economy, enhancing the food and beverage offer
 -  Consolidating the retail and arrival area
 -  Identifying Ashton's heart
 -  Supporting Ashton's workforce
 -  Levelling Up Funding Zone Market Square to provide flexible spaces and events
 -  Key Spaces
 -  Key crossings
 -  Key streets
 -  Key linkages
 -  Key junctions

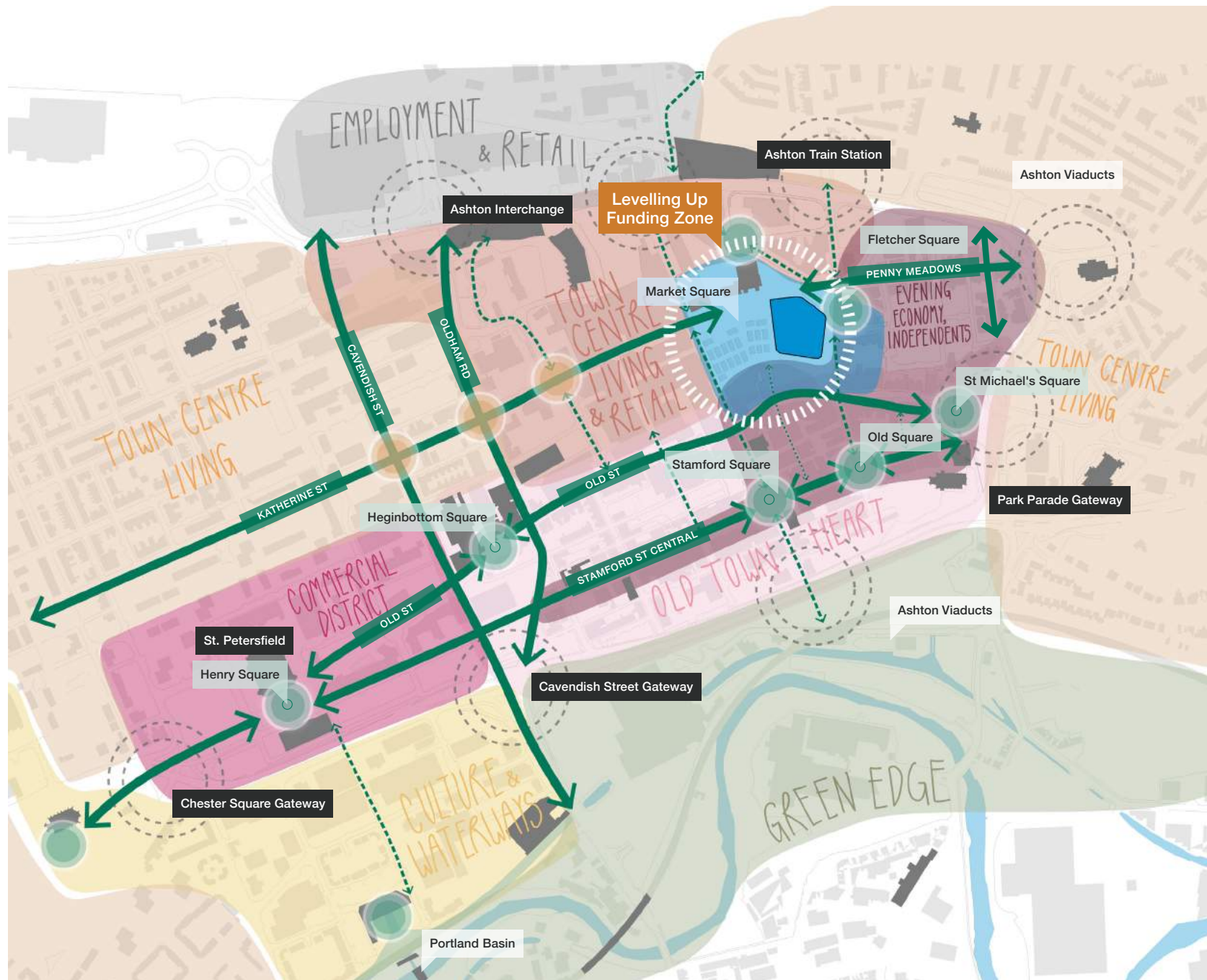


Diagram illustrating character areas and the overall vision

Ashton Market is the beating heart of the town.

A modern market for everyone, a destination attracting locals and visitors, hosting a range of entertaining events.



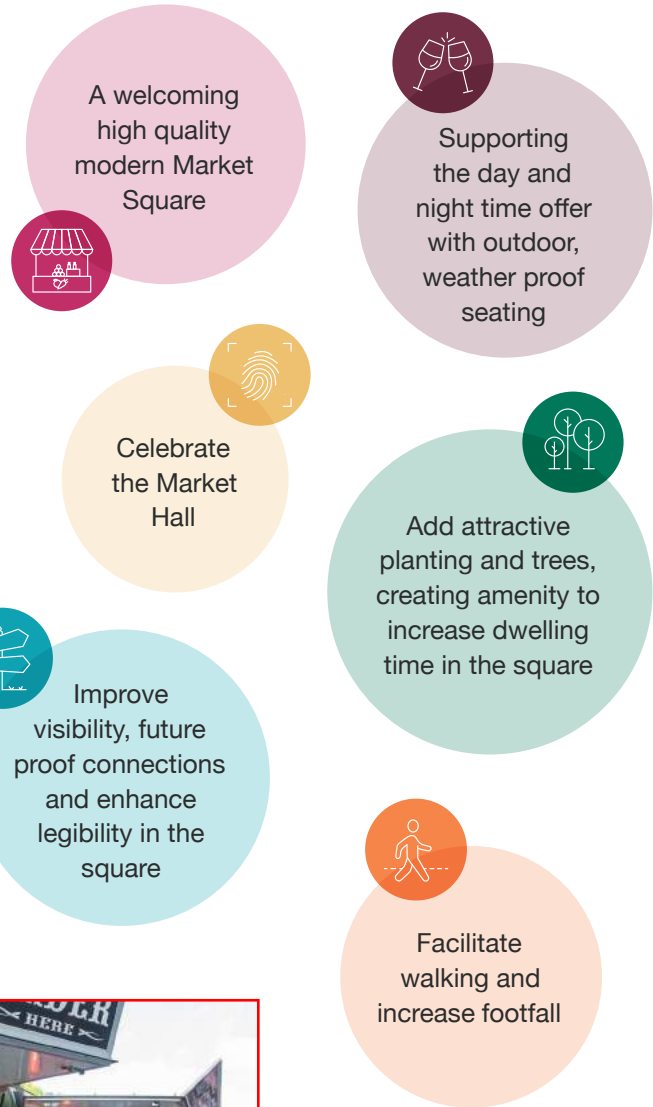
A Modern Market Vision



Active edges around the Market Square will encourage footfall and activity

The vision includes the following key design elements:

- A flexible space to support a programme of entertainment and cultural events to attract visitors into the town centre.
- Accessible. A robust and durable single unified surface to meet modern accessibility standards. Incorporate access and servicing requirements.
- A layout to encourage permeability of visitors through the space, considering connections to the surrounding streets.
- Increased outdoor informal seating, and dedicated seating areas for eating and drinking to support and enhance spill out from the market hall.
- Inclusive and welcomes everyone. Uses to meet the needs of all ages and incorporating interactive play elements.
- A new canopy to provide a designated under-cover area for markets to include flexible, durable market stalls and kiosks
- New trees and planting to create an attractive environment and improve air quality and carbon sequestration.
- Improved way-finding, street furniture and lighting for encourage safety and reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Public art to be incorporated to celebrate the heritage and story of Ashton.
- An improved waste management system, improved public toilet facilities, and designated storage for stallholders.



Page 216



Umbrellas with integrated lighting provide flexibility to assigned stalls for vendors.



Umbrellas with integrated lighting provide flexibility to assigned stalls for vendors.



Flexible, specialist stalls could be hosted in the Market Square

Illustrative Design Proposals

The illustrative Market Square plan illustrates one way that the design principles could be brought forward. The plan illustrates the key design principles and guidance for the detailed design stages of the Market Square.

The illustrative plan is indicative and subject to further technical considerations, surveys and the detailed design process. The findings from the contextual analysis and feedback from the consultation have shaped the illustrative Market Square Plans.

The emerging ideas include;

Public Realm

1. Informal play area within the Market Square
2. An arrival space beside the Town Hall which will announce the Market Square
3. Emphasise and retain views to and from the Town Hall and Market Hall from key streets and spaces
4. Signage with strong branding from key streets and spaces will guide visitors from and to the Town Hall and Market Hall
5. The public realm will be designed for less able persons – level changes and lighting will create accessible routes
6. Heritage interpretation will be incorporated into the public realm design
7. A sustainable urban drainage approach will assist in responding to local climatic conditions
8. Servicing access along Bow Street for traders will be retained
9. Cycle parking areas on the periphery of the Market Square
10. Intimate spaces will be designed into the public realm
11. Planting will be proposed within the Market Square, avoiding grassed areas, instead providing planted areas that are easy to maintain (consider current issue with trees and bird droppings by seated areas).
12. Spill out from the Market Hall to allow for seating and F&B.


















Kiosks

13. Kiosks will be designed to be located underneath the canopy (exact location and number of kiosks will be determined at the detailed design stage).
14. Design recommendations/requirements from kiosk traders relating to; kiosk design, lighting, storage, waste and servicing (consider VAT requirement) will be incorporated into the detail design of the kiosks
15. Consideration to the height of the kiosk structure, key views towards heritage buildings, and access to the first floor level within the canopy will be designed holistically

Canopy

16. Factor in environmental conditions (south-westerly wind and rain) within the canopy design
17. Space within the canopy for ticketed events and security measures during night-time hours will be designed into the canopy features.
18. Allow for movement and circulation through the canopy to enhance permeability.
19. The design will consider security at night-time and avoid anti-social behaviour.

Key

-  Main Market canopy structure
-  Canopy overhang
-  ① Market Kiosks (under canopy)
-  ② Market stalls (under canopy)
-  ③ Temporary seating and market stalls for events with cover (large)
-  ④ Waste and storage facilities for kiosk traders will be incorporated into the detail design of the kiosks
-  Flexible event space area
-  Proposed trees
-  Proposed informal seating area
-  Proposed cycle storage
-  Proposed lighting
-  Entrance to Market Hall
-  Active frontage to kiosk units
-  Active frontages
-  Passive Movement Zone
-  Key Views
-  South Westerly wind



Illustrative Market Square proposals plan (proposals are indicative and subject to further detailed design)





The Kiosks

The kiosks will be located underneath the canopy structure for year-round protection. There is potential for the kiosks to work within the canopy, with first floor access.

Further consideration to the kiosks and their design will be required. These include elements that were highlighted during the consultation process and can be found in the consultation summary.

The considerations are as follows:

- Page 220
- Lighting strategy for the kiosks and stalls,
 - Storage for market traders, included within the design of the kiosks and stalls, as well as provision for maintenance equipment storage,
 - Design consideration of the kiosks and the waste management, including storing, disposing and collection of refuse,
 - Power and utility facilities for kiosks, storage units and flexible space under canopy (for market traders/stalls and/or for flexible events under canopy),
 - Servicing, including goods loading and unloading,
 - Security, including potential to fully close canopy and kiosks outside of opening hours.



Lower market, Altrincham



Old Spitalfields Market, London



Kärda Central Square, Estonian island Hiiumaa



Borough Market, London



Shambles Market, York

Public Realm

The redevelopment of the Market Square presents an opportunity to create better-connected, better-looking public spaces that build on Ashton's proud history and heritage, and provide a sense of consistency across the town centre.

The Market Square will be a space to host flexible events through the year. Proposals should include heritage interpretation, wayfinding and signage which is unique to Ashton.

Following the consultation process and comments from different stakeholders, there is potential to introduce attractive tree planting to create permeable wind breaks, and to create amenity through planted areas for seasonal interest which can further incorporate informal areas for seating and play.

Page 221



A flexible open hard square where some permanent stalls are removed to host a variety of events



Potential for more stylised totems incorporating branding



Jaktgatan and Lövängsgatan, Stockholm



Hapa Collaborative Square, Canada



Curved seating with planted areas



Historical dates, text and imagery can be cut into paving and steps

The Market fringes are part of part of the overall vision for the future regeneration of Ashton Town Centre. A comprehensive approach to the design of the Market Square and the surrounding streets and spaces creates a future proof plan.

Future phasing and delivery

The following pages describe the design principles and guidance for the future phases of regeneration and the market fringes. The following streets and spaces will form part of the detailed design stage, up to RIBA stage 2. These areas will be excluded from the Levelling Up Fund and delivered at a later stage.

- Wellington Square
- Clarendon Sixth Form College and Tameside One Walk
- Market Street and Fletcher Square
- Warrington Street
- Market Hall and Market Hall canopy.
- Market Avenue

The delivery of these streets and spaces will be subject to future funding opportunities.

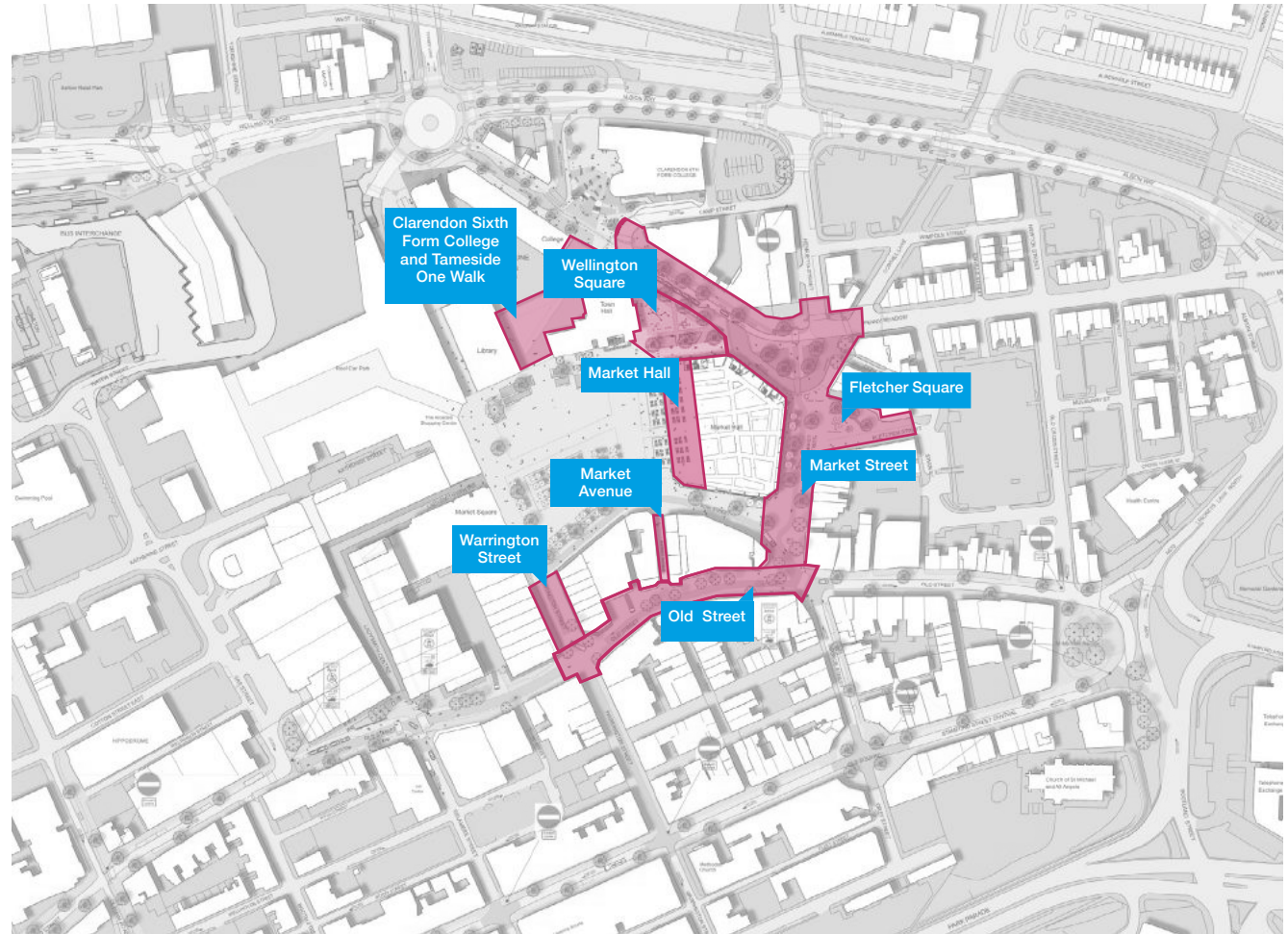


Diagram illustrating the Future Phases

 Future Phases, detailed design to RIBA Stage 2

The Public Realm Strategy

Phase 1 - Market Square

The Public Realm Strategy will focus immediately on the Market Square, Market Hall and connecting streets and spaces. This is Phase 1 of an overall Public Realm Strategy for the Town Centre. The aim of the Phase 1 Market Square Strategy will include strategic plans, along with guidance and design

Phase 2 Ashton Town Centre

In the future a comprehensive Public Realm Strategy will also include Stamford Street Central, Old Street and St. Michael's Square. It will incorporate proposals for Wellington Road and extend to Katherine Street, Penny Meadows, Oldham Road.

The ambition is that the improvements to Phase 1 Market Square will be a catalyst for the future regeneration of Ashton Town Centre, attracting investment to deliver the Ashton Town Centre Vision

Engagement and Continual Feedback

The consultation process has been important to gather views and opinions that have shaped the design principles described in this public realm strategy for Phase 1 Market Square and to ensure that the most appropriate scheme comes forward for the community and the surroundings.

Two stages of consultation, with both the public and stakeholder groups have been undertaken. The findings have been gathered and analysed to draw out the key messages to inform the design principles described in this document and the emerging detailed design proposals.

The process will not end here and engagement will be an ongoing process throughout the detailed design stage to ensure that all ideas are incorporated at every stage.

As part of next stage detailed design we will be liaising with traders and markets team around establishing a new operational model for the new scheme. This will be picked up as part of the next stages of work and ongoing dialogue.

Next Steps

The following describes the process and timescales for the detailed design and delivery of Phase 1 Market Square:

- Public consultation: November/December 2022
- Consultation analysis: December 2022
- Preliminary works January 2023
- Approved Public Realm Strategy: March 2023
- Detailed Design Stage begins: April 2023
- Detailed Design Approval: November 2023
- Early Market Square works commence: November 2023
- Delivery of main Market Square works: Winter 2023 – ending March 2025





CIVIC ENGINEERS

Tameside Metropolitan Borough

A Public Realm Strategy for Ashton-under-Lyne



Ladysmith, Ashton Library and Ashton Market



Phase 2 - Wider Town Centre

A catalyst for further regeneration

Ashton Old Town



Ashton Interchange



Executive Summary

This Public Realm Strategy was produced by Planit on behalf of Tameside Council to devise a strategy to deliver improvements to the Public Realm around the Market Grounds and surroundings areas of Ashton-Under-Lyne Town Centre.

Tameside Council has commissioned the production of this Public Realm Strategy. This is a unique opportunity to consider the wider context of Ashton-under-Lyne and its vision, heritage values and character. Environmental sustainability, diversity and inclusion, health and well-being, and accessibility are highly significant contributing factors in creating a sense of place and a unique destination for Ashton Town Centre.

Phase 2 Public Realm Strategy

The Public Realm Strategy is Phase 2 of the overall Public Realm Strategy for the Town Centre and its streets and spaces around the Market Square.

This public realm strategy also includes visions and concept proposals for Stamford Street Central, Old Street and St. Michael's Square. It will incorporate proposals for Wellington Road and extend to Katherine Street, Penny Meadows, Oldham Road.

Public Realm Strategy themes

- Inclusive and accessible
- Townscape context
- Responding to heritage
- Connectivity and accessibility
- Sustainability
- Safer streets and spaces
- Culture and events
- Health and well-being
- Way-finding, lighting and signage
- Brand identity and public art

People and place focussed

Our approach is place and people focused, we started by getting to know the place in which we are working, and the people who know it best.

It is about building strong relationships, identifying the priorities, gaining insight from the people and understanding of the essence of the place. This has enabled us to define the objectives, aims and ambitions of an effective Public Realm Strategy.



The Catalysts Creating Positive Change

There are several economic catalysts which are and have been accelerating positive change in Ashton Town Centre, aiming to support current delivery of Phase 1 - the Market Square and the economy and future growth of the town in future phases:

Ashton Mayoral Development Zone

The establishment of an Ashton Mayoral Development Zone will significantly raise the profile of Ashton and Tameside, helping to position the opportunities that exist for future funding, investment and Greater Manchester support.

Mayor's Challenge Fund (MTF)

Concept design proposals for improved cycling infrastructure have been developed under the Mayor's Challenge Fund.

One of these projects is Ashton Streetscape (Albion Way and Wellington Road) which aims to achieve segregated cycle tracks on both sides of the road, a modified junction at the exit from the bus station and the Ashton retail park, and measures to slow and control vehicle speeds and provide enhanced priority for pedestrian users.



Map showing zones for the catalyst for change areas

Levelling Up Fund 2021

The Council has gained further grant funding to continue this comprehensive transformation of the town centre and was successful in its £19.87m Levelling Up Fund bid to support the next stage of regeneration. This included;

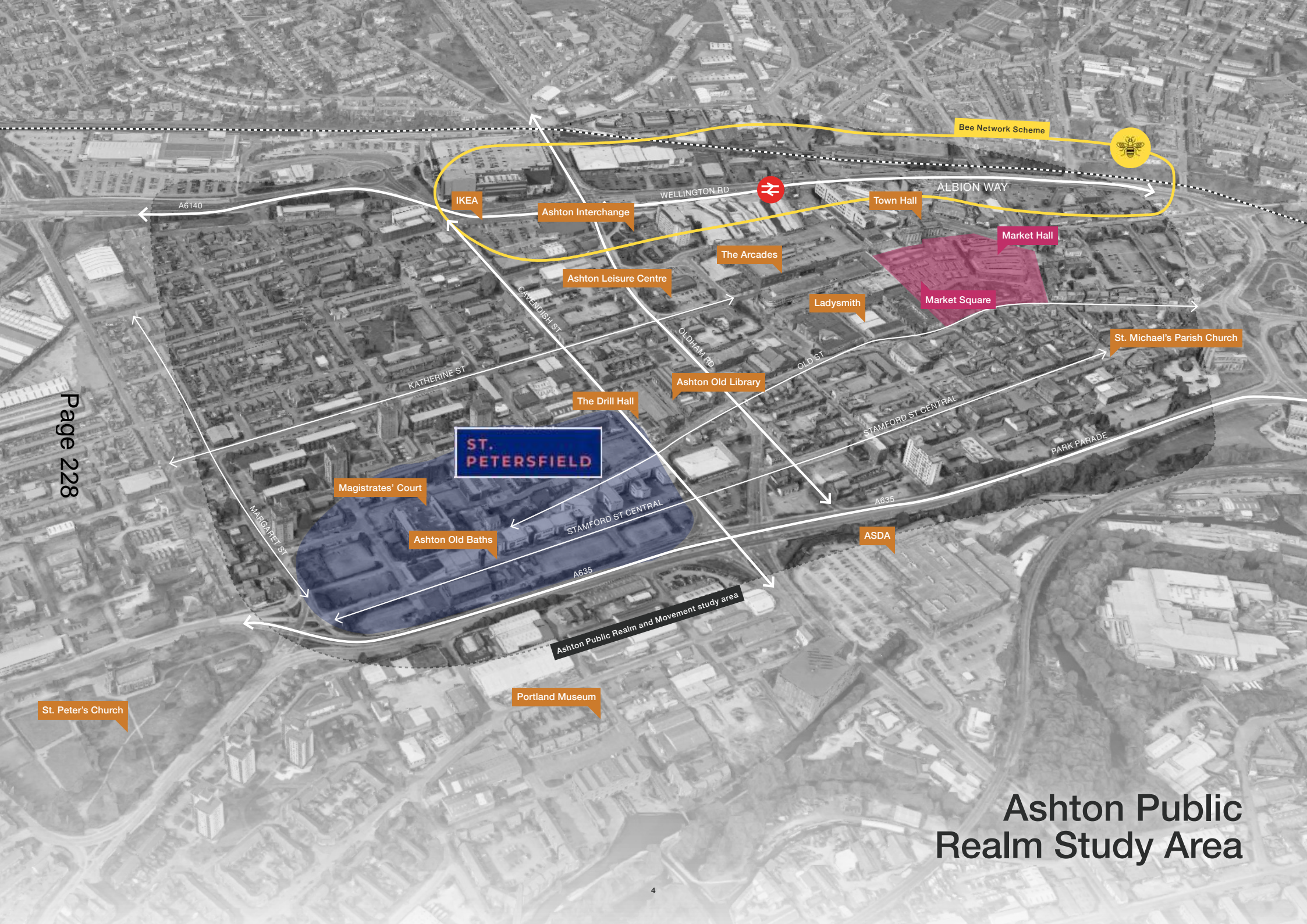
- A. Land remediation of the former interchange site
- B. Cycling and public realm improvements
- C. Restoration of Ashton Town Hall
- D. Further development of St Petersfield into a cutting edge business park for innovation and tech firms
- E. Residential, leisure and the delivery of a wider diversity of town centre uses with increased town centre living.

Wellington Road Proposals

The Wellington Road and Albion Way proposals are currently progressing and construction has started on-site. The strategy and design principles for Phase 1 - the Market Square will integrate into wider proposals underway.



Visualisation of Albion Way proposals



Ashton Public Realm Study Area

Stage 1 Public Consultation Love Ashton Engagement

The Love Ashton engagement event took place on Saturday 13th March 2022, at Ashton Market Hall, the feedback shaped the public realm strategy plans.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council appointed Planit and Civic Engineers to undertake a Public Realm and Movement strategy for Ashton-under-Lyne Town Centre. We gathered the public's initial ideas and thoughts about how they wanted to see improvements in the town centre, the feedback helped to shape our proposals.

Key Messages

- Market square is characterless-missing the vibrant atmosphere from the past. It should be an attraction and destination rather than a cluttered space.
- Generally unkempt, with deteriorating materials, and lack of greenery.
- Market stalls are unattractive, impractical and in bad condition.
- Safety issues in the square, related to anti-social behaviour, poor lighting and visibility.
- Accessibility from public transport should be improved, as well as connections to St. Petersfield and the rest of Ashton Town Centre.

Make the area more of a community hub where meetings can take place forums and maybe even as a wedding venue.

Market stalls are unattractive and not practical

Missing the once vibrant market stalls and atmosphere

Lack of greenery

Attract more big stores to Ashton

Housing which is affordable and sustainable

Improve signage to the town

Offer of jobs to all

Residents need safe and attractive walks

Love Ashton Event



Love Ashton Event



Future Vision

The aim for Ashton Town Centre is to breathe new life into the town centre and attract investment, and prosperity for years to come.

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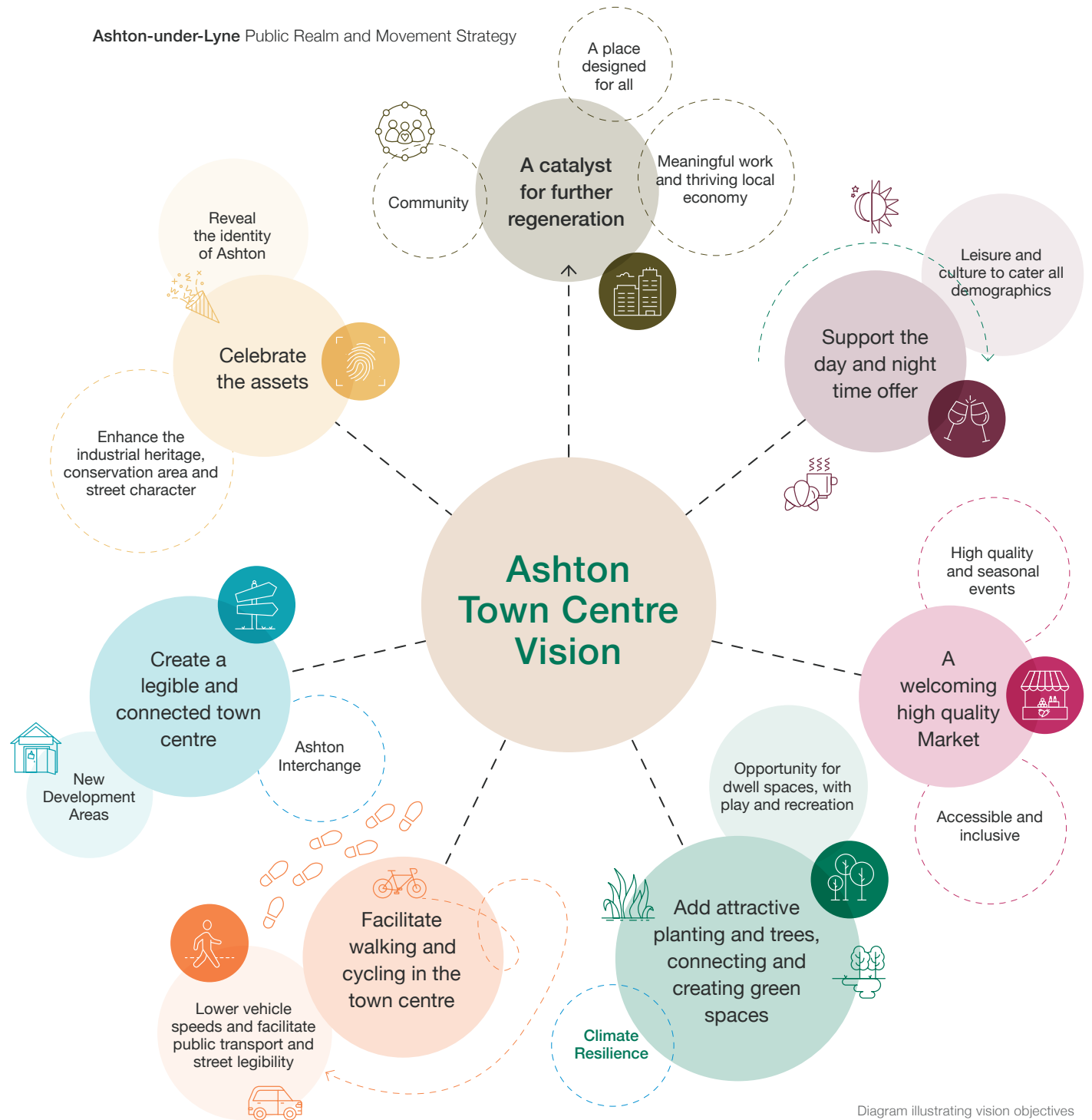


Diagram illustrating vision objectives

Public Realm Strategy Plan

Our plans capture the essence of Ashton-Under-Lyne Town Centre by celebrating its history and unique assets. We have defined the opportunities and character zones to help shape a comprehensive vision for the future.

Page 231

-  Linking Ashton with the River Tame and Canal green infrastructure
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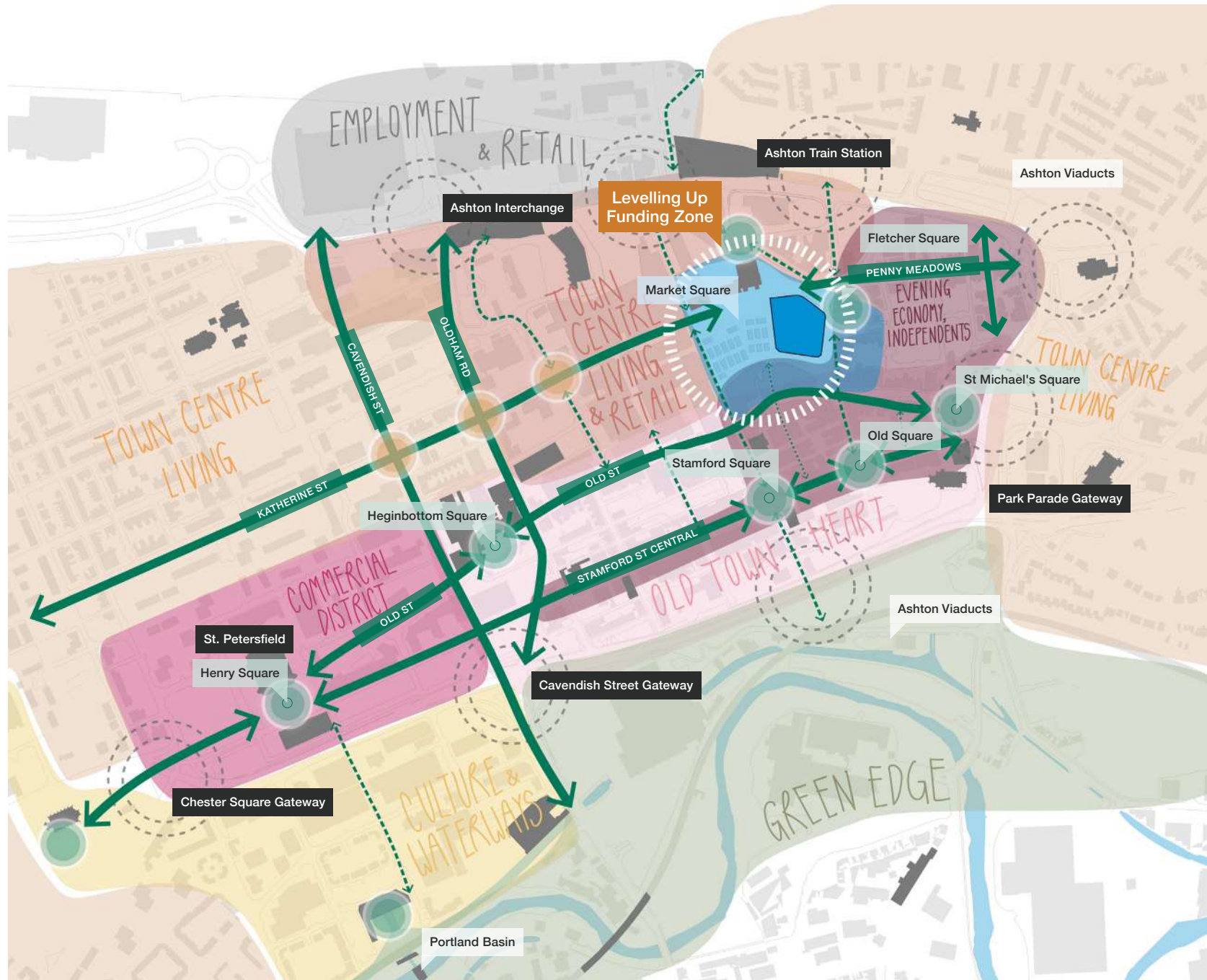
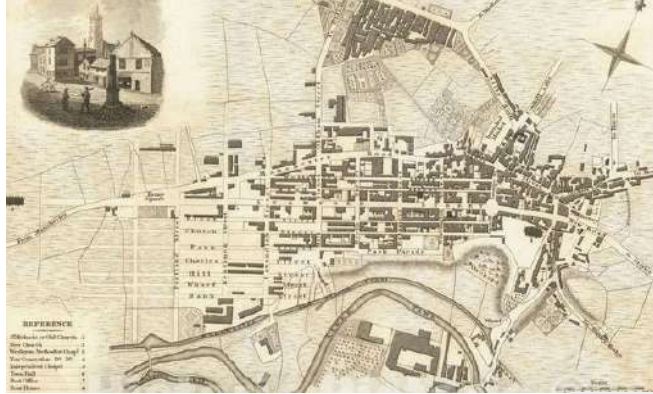


Diagram illustrating character areas and the overall vision

Historic evolution of Ashton town centre



1824

Ashton was a very small market town from medieval times until late in the 18th century.

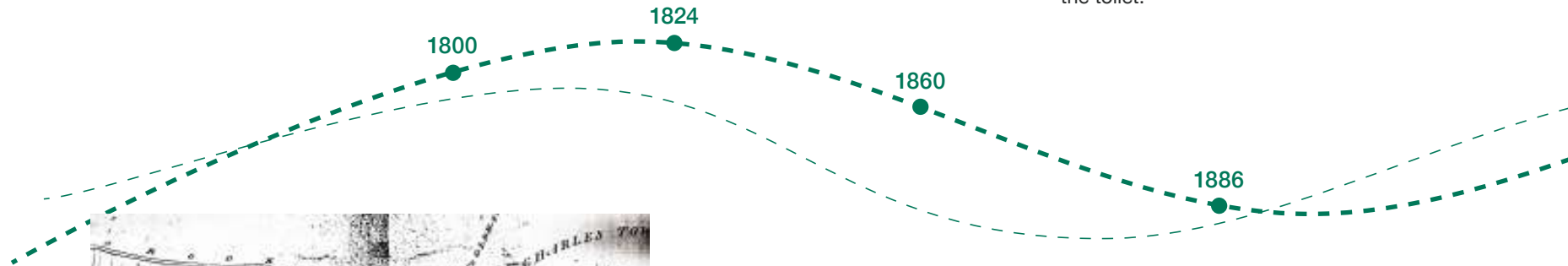
Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne

BYELAWS
AND ADDITIONAL BYELAWS
FOR THE
GOOD RULE AND GOVERNMENT
OF THE

1886

Improvement Act (1886) passed bye-laws that raised housing standards for working classes. These laws stipulated minimum yard sizes, ceiling and window heights and that nobody could sleep or work in a room over the toilet.

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1800s

Ashton's new town centre was planned by The Earl of Stamford. The street plan was laid in grids on top of fields, and many of the mains streets were named after Stamford's family members. The plots were leased to speculative builders, who had to fulfil aesthetic and size criteria for their new constructions.

Industrial Revolution led to population increase from 8,000 to 36,000 in years 1800-1851. The growth of the town's textile industry led to the construction of estates specifically for workers. Prominent figure in improvement of worker's well being was mill owner and social reformer Hugh Mason.



Oxford Mill

1860



Hill Biscuits manufacture factory in 20th century

1940

With the collapse of the overseas market in the 1920s, the town's cotton industry went into decline, and by the 1930s most of the firms and mills in the area had closed. The town was forced to develop a variety of light industries, with many mills converted from cotton to other uses.



2022

Ashton now - reestablishing itself as a market town building on its rich industrial history

Hannah Lees (1764-1831) was the owner of one of the earliest and largest iron works in the Manchester city region during the late 18th and early 19th century. At a time when the new industries were dominated by men, and with her large family to look after (she had 12 children), Hannah played the major role in ensuring the continuance of the ironworks.



Park Bridge Ironworks

Ashton Market exists since the early 15th century. The original market was close to St. Michael's parish church, but was moved to the present site in 1828. The current market hall building was built in 1867. In 2004, it was devastated by a fire, after which the market was rebuilt and officially opened in 2008 with its original exterior walls.



Ashton Market in 1950s



Ashton's Old Baths

Calls for better sanitation led to the construction of a vast swimming baths, opened in 1870. By 1975 when the Baths closed, the building had been reinvented into several uses including an orchestra venue and tennis courts. Nowadays it hosts a digital hub with various types of workspaces.

A Distinctive and Unique destination

Ashton Town Centre is rich in heritage and distinctive character. Its unique assets will be celebrated and revitalised to attract visitors to a landmark destination.

Rich in History

The historic streets and buildings contribute to Ashton's distinctive character including Ashton Town Hall, Market and Mill buildings.

Stamford Street Central and Old Street, once busy and vibrant streets, include a number of beautiful buildings. Some of these buildings are vacant and have potential to be refurbished to become successful commercial spaces.

Well Connected

Ashton is located in a unique position, within proximity to both Manchester and the Peak District. Proposals will be sustainable, encouraging active modes of travel such as walking and cycling. There is potential to rationalise the car parking, reduce the amount of cars to create people friendly streets, reducing air pollution.

Unique Assets

Ashton Town Centre presents an opportunity to connect distinctive heritage buildings and spaces, to create an arrival experience and journey through its characterful streets. A variety of facilities and uses will attract people to visit.

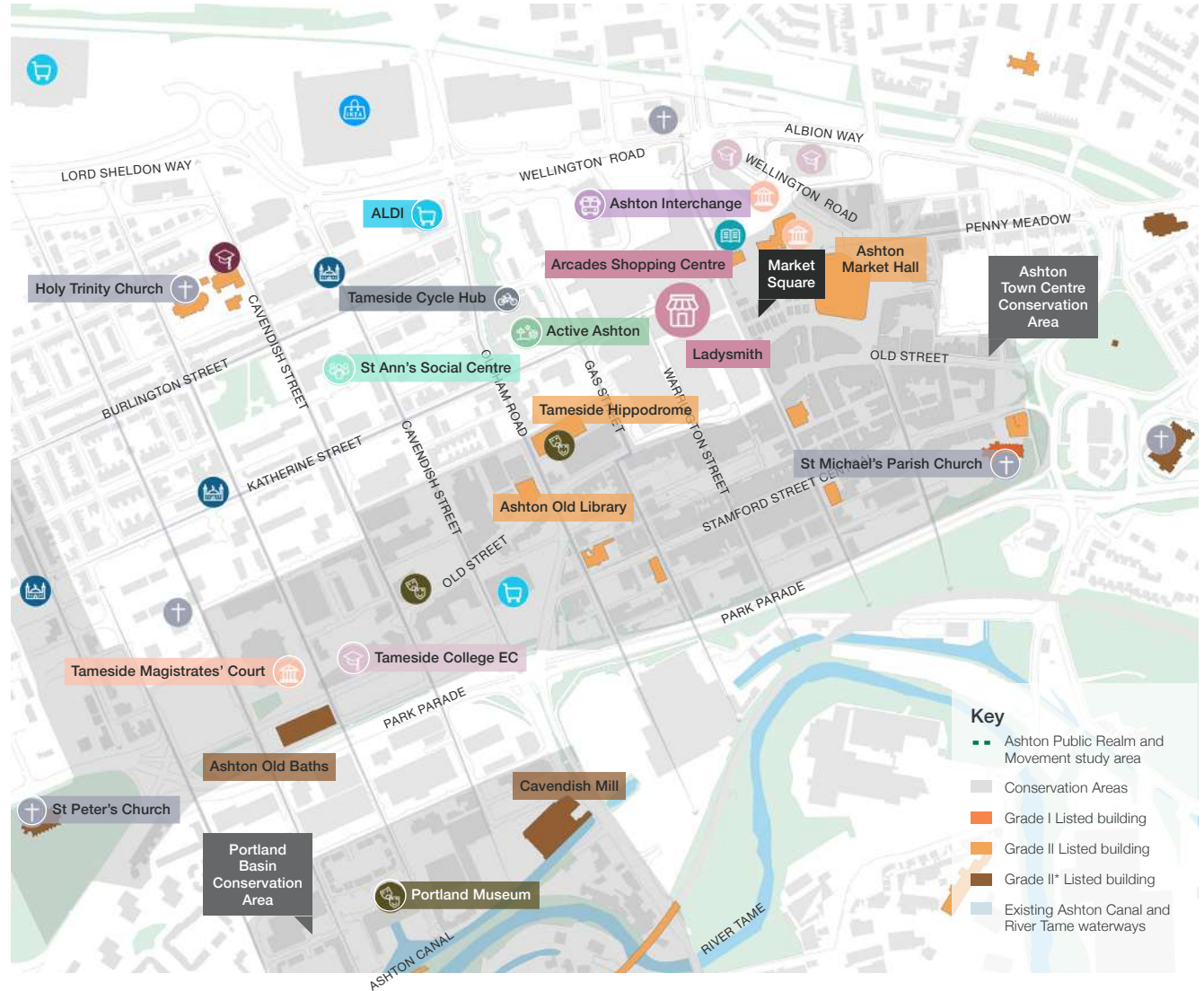


Diagram locating of Ashton's destinations and assets

The Opportunities

Opportunities have been identified as part of the contextual analysis carried out for this Phase Two public realm strategy. The opportunities shape the future regeneration of Ashton's public realm.

Streets and spaces have been identified for design proposals and interventions to support the future ambitions and a cohesive public realm strategy for Ashton-Under-Lyne. There is the opportunity to improve the following:

- The arrival experience into the town centre
- Movement and connections by creating a network of people friendly streets and spaces
- Connections to the train station and interchange to the market
- Safety for pedestrians through new and improved crossings
- Access to the market from the west (Katherine Street)
- Connections between St Petersfield to the Market.

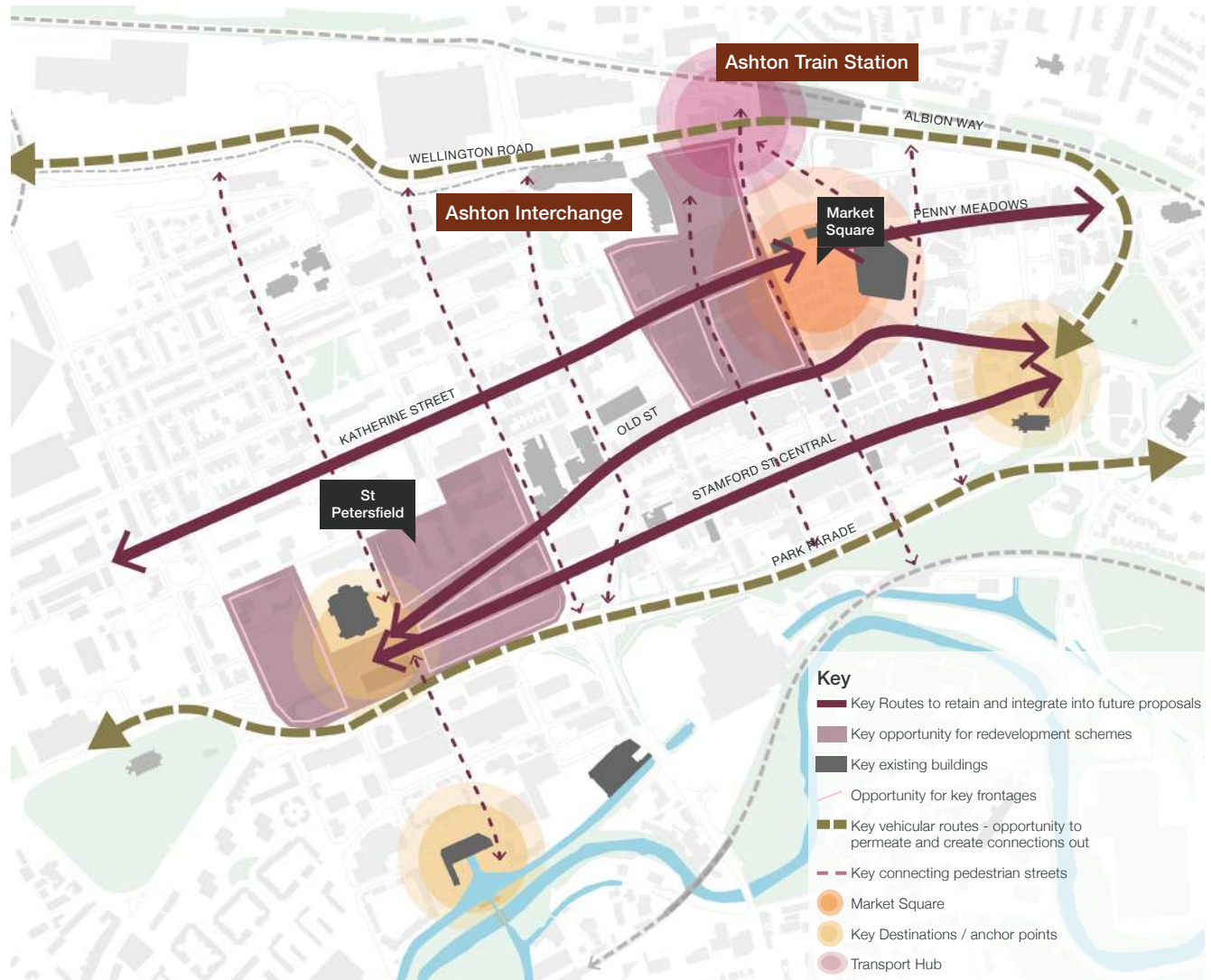


Diagram illustrating the opportunities in Ashton Town Centre

Key Ideas

A series of design principles respond to the context of the Town Centre and underpin the public realm strategy. The design principles are specific strategies and spatial proposals that will help to shape the future of Ashton Town Centre and the delivery of the vision.

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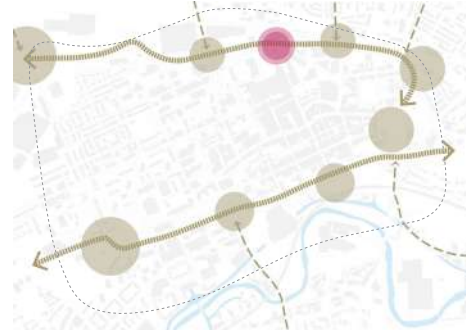
Connect St Petersfield to the heart of the town

Bridging the south west area of St Petersfield with the Market square and the Old town of Ashton, creating a more cohesive, walkable and legible town centre



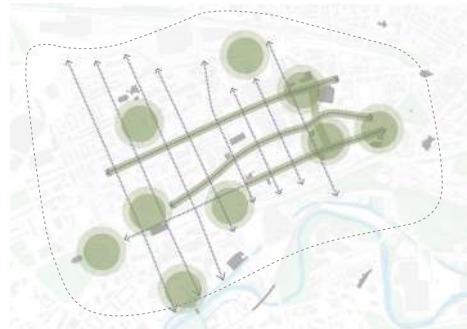
Redefine the Market as the heart of the town

Enhancing connections from and to the Market place, creating a destination within the town centre



Enhance the arrival to the Ashton Town Centre

Improving arrivals and gateways, as well as creating better pedestrian crossings and streets. Encouraging footfall into the town centre from key assets e.g. Ikea and Ashton Interchange



Creating a series of spaces

Public realm and landscape spaces to create key destinations within the movement network of the town centre



Define the connections

Enhancing historic north-south connections from Wellington Road to the river, and east-west connections from Katherine St. to the Market, to improve people movement around the town easily

Movement Strategy

The Movement Strategy will create a people-focused town centre, providing safe and attractive streets. The proposed strategy will divert cars from the heart of Ashton, prioritising pedestrians and cyclists to freely and safely move around the town. The strategy aims to achieve a balanced approach to movement, whilst considering practical needs of parking, servicing, taxi movement and accessibility.

The public realm strategy proposal illustrates the need to balance competing street demands between pedestrians, cyclists, vehicular traffic, public transport including buses and taxis. The key transport and movement aspirations have been divided into the following movements;

1. Pedestrian Friendly Streets

- Create a pleasant pedestrian-focused area to Ashton suitable for all levels of ability, connecting new development areas and points of interest within the town centre
- Reduce the reliance on vehicular movement in the centre of Ashton
- Increase number of pedestrian crossings

2. Secure Cycling

- Connect the National Cycle Network through Ashton, establishing strategic connections to the wider context
- Create safe and secure cycling routes through the town centre
- Provide secure cycle parking and cycle hubs

3. Quality Public Transport

- Establish a community shuttle bus, connecting Ashton Old Town and St Petersfield to create a residential and commuter friendly public transport network

4. Calm Traffic, Taxi Movement and Efficient Servicing

- Reduce congestion and rat-running in the town centre along key streets
- Create balanced streets which prioritise pedestrians and cyclist movement
- Establish clear drop-off points for taxis
- Any public realm improvements to not compromise space available for servicing in the town centre

5. Smart Parking

- Consolidate surface car-parking in the town centre
- Identify opportunity for development infill where there is council ownership
- Establish clear wayfinding to car parking areas in the town centre, decreasing the need for through-movement

Pedestrian Movement

Existing Pedestrian Movement

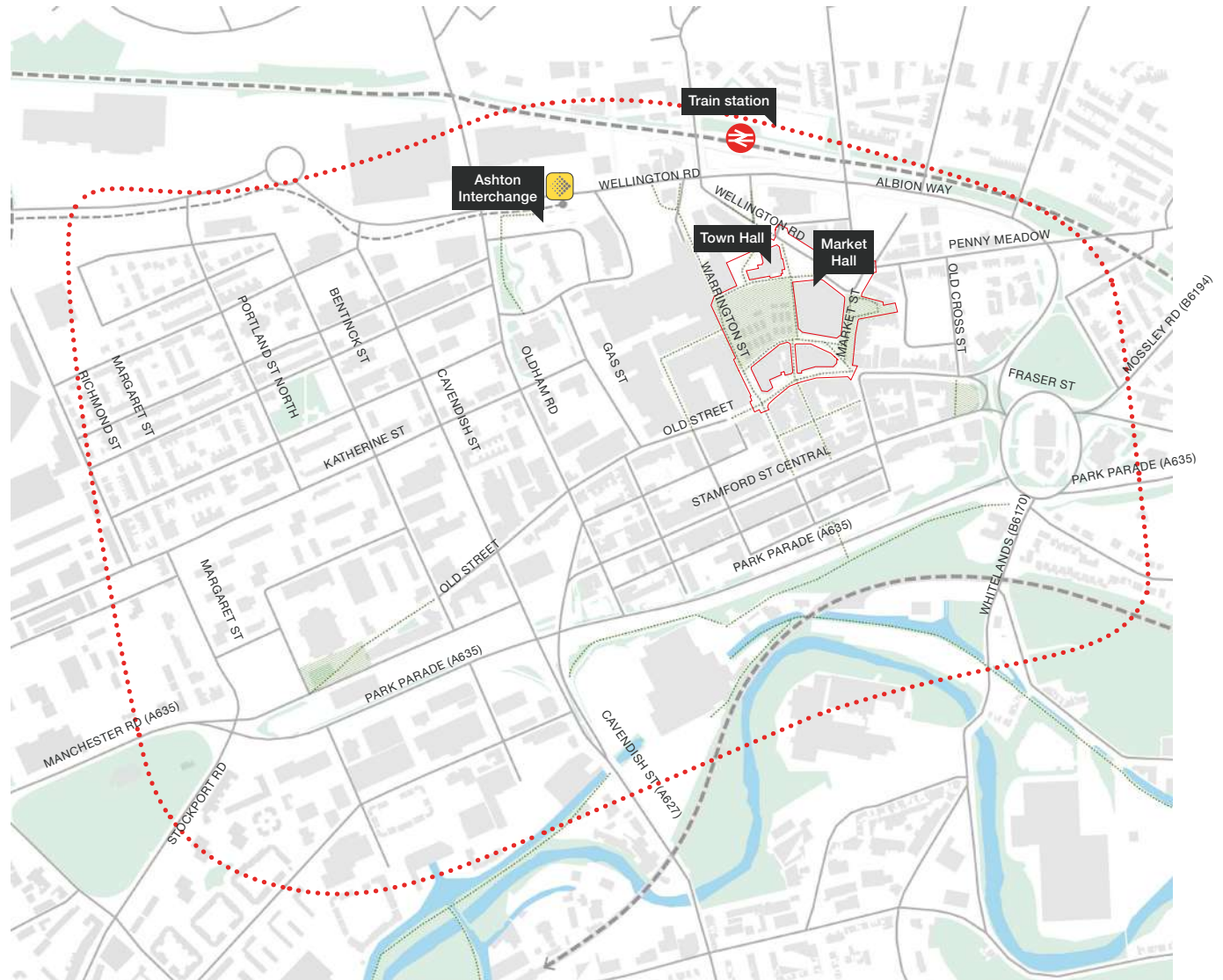
Ashton-under-Lyne town centre is dominated by vehicular movement through most of its streets, limiting safe and easy pedestrian movement to key destinations. The particular areas requiring improvement to the pedestrian environment, including increased width of pavements, improved surface materials and safe pedestrian crossings;

- Potential to extend and enhance the pedestrian-only area around the Market Square
- Area towards and around Ashton Old Baths from the town centre
- Pedestrian access to Portland Basin Museum
- Pedestrian access to and through St Michael's Square
- Movement from Ashton Interchange through New Radcliffe Freedom Gardens
- Through Ladysmith and Arcades Shopping Centres

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Existing poorly connected street for pedestrians - Stamford Street Central



Existing pedestrian movement



Pedestrian Movement Strategy

People-friendly streets, encourage pedestrians to move safely around the town, whilst considering the practical needs of parking, servicing, taxi movement and accessibility.

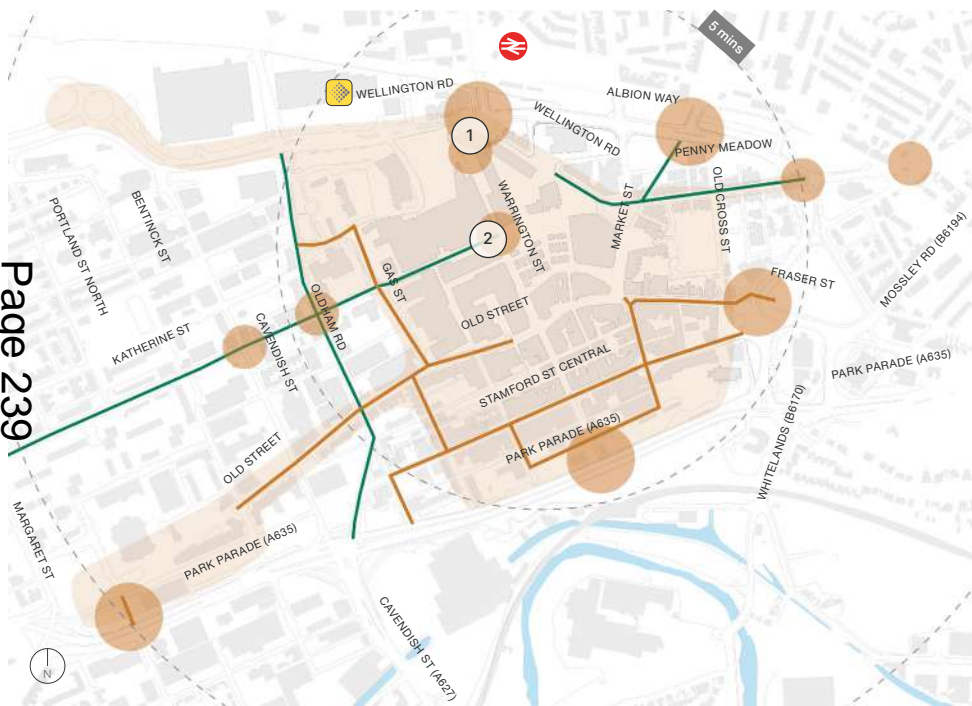


Diagram to illustrate proposed pedestrian friendly streets

Key

- Existing pedestrian only streets / pathways
- Proposed pedestrian priority streets (vehicular access is allowed in specific places)
- Walking distances
- Proposed pedestrian crossing improvements
- Proposed Pedestrian Priority Zone
- Proposed equal priority streets (serve to reduce vehicular speed and road dominance)
- 1. Ashton Interchange to Market Square
- 2. Katherine Street to Market Square



Signage and wayfinding along the key routes help with navigation



Pedestrian routes to key destinations with street furniture to provide dwell space and trees for shade and seasonal interest

Proposals and Objectives:

- Improved or new pedestrian crossings at key junctions to improve connectivity around Ashton and its surroundings streets
- Improve wayfinding, signage and lighting to create a safe place for pedestrians
- Increase the pedestrian priority zone to connect Market Square to St Petersfield along Old Street and Stamford Street Central,
- Celebrate views in and out of Ashton town centre.
- Informal, sheltered seating and play to allow people to dwell.
- Spill-out, encouraging small businesses, active ground floors and streets
- Public realm improvements to Old Street, Warrington Street, Stamford street Central, Katherine Street and Oldham Road.
- Improve pedestrian movement from Ashton interchange to the Market Square and Old Street, along Gas Street and Warrington Street.
- Narrowing of carriageways where appropriate, to increase footpath widths and improve the environment

Cycle Movement

Existing Cycle Movement

Ashton-under-Lyne town centre is dominated by vehicular movement through most of its streets, limiting safe and easy cyclist movement to key destinations. The particular areas requiring improvement to the pedestrian environment, including increased width of pavements, improved surface materials and safe pedestrian crossings;

- There are a number of existing cycle access routes on to the market square, as illustrated in the Existing cycle movement and cycle parking diagram. It is proposed to promote active travel in Ashton and in doing so it is proposed to include additional cycle parking strategically located in the centre of Ashton.

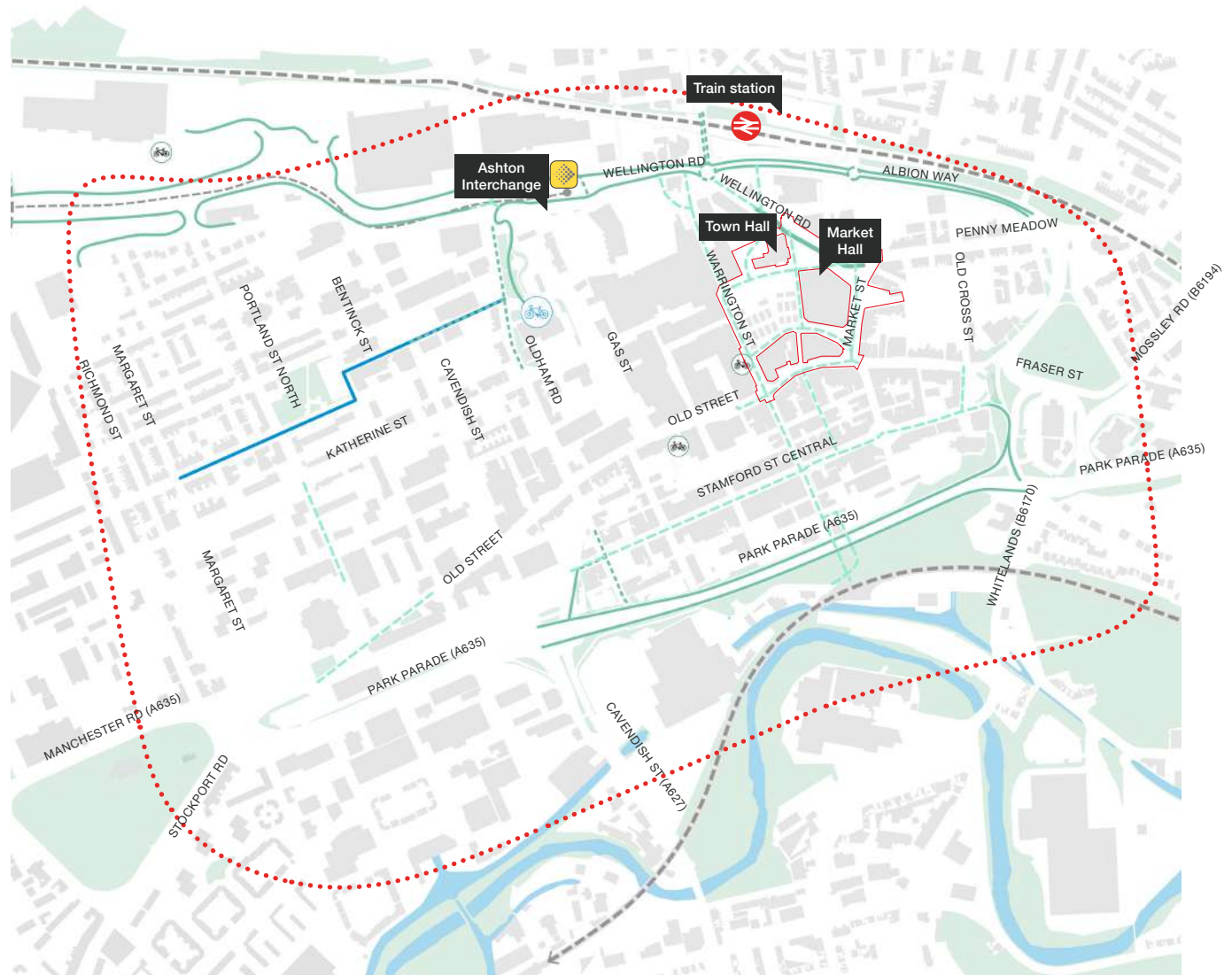
Interventions to encourage active travel in a safe and secure way should be considered so that people of all ages and abilities feel confident to cycle through Ashton safely.



Existing poorly connected street for cyclists

Key

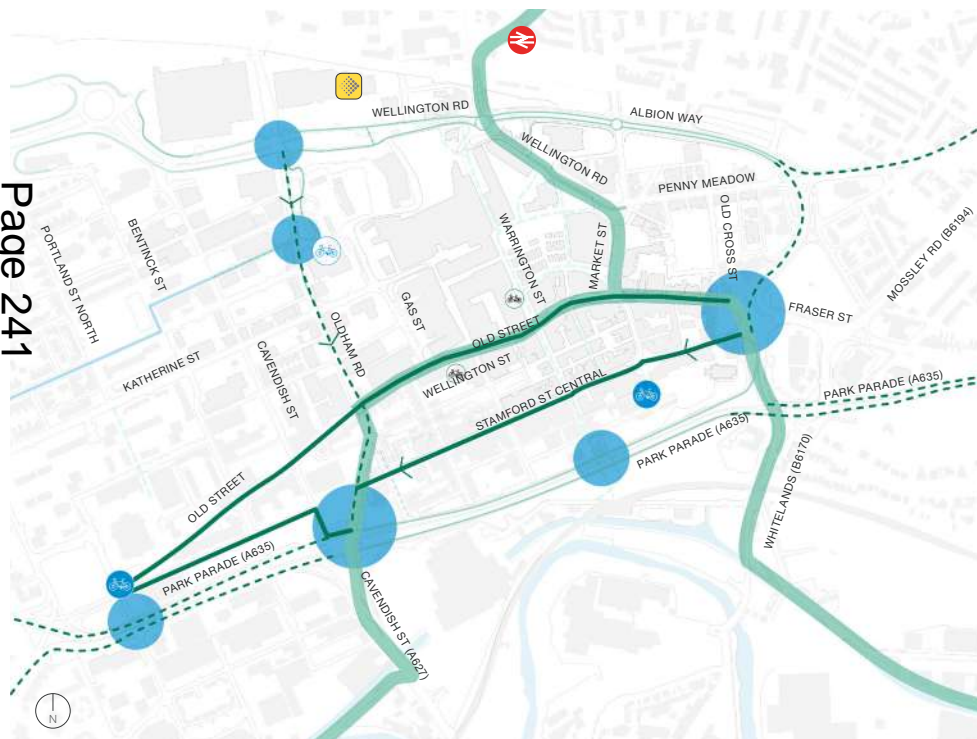
- Public Realm study area
- Market Square Levelling Up scope site boundary
- Existing cycle Parking
- Existing Cycle Hub
- Shared cycleway and footpath
- Pedestrian priority cyclist to dismount
- Existing Contraflow lane
- Existing designated cycle route



Existing cycle movement and cycle parking

Safe and Secure Cycling Routes Movement Strategy

A safe cycling environment encourages active travel, to encourage sustainability and healthy living for the community.



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Diagram illustrating cycling routes

Existing Cycle Hub	Existing and committed schemes - segregated cycleway	One-way streets
Existing cycle Parking	Proposed segregated cycleway	Proposed improved crossing for cyclists
Proposed Cycle Hub	Existing pedestrian priority, cyclist to dismount	
Recreational Cycle Route (potential to rewire the National Cycle Network Route)	Proposed improved cycle environment	

Proposals and Objectives

- Connect to the National Cycle Network route through Ashton and improve the cycling environment through the town centre
- Supply more strategic cycle parking in the centre of Ashton
- Enable people of all ability to feel safe cycling around and through Ashton
- Reduce conflict between cyclists and parked cars
- A connected network of safe and secure cycle parking facilities
- Improved cyclist information and navigation using signage and wayfinding, as part of an overall wayfinding strategy for the town centre taking into account the needs for all modes of transport.
- Improved cycling environment connecting residential areas of Ashton to the Market Square and transport links
- Balanced streets which prioritise cyclists and pedestrians along Old Street and Stamford Street Central, connecting St Petersfield to the Market Square



Balanced streets with cycling crossings create a safe environment for cyclists and pedestrians



Designated cycling paths encourage active travel

Car and Taxi Movement

Existing Car and Taxi Movement

Ashton-under-Lyne is reliant on car travel in and around the town centre, creating an unattractive and polluted urban environment. Reduction on the reliance on car movement across the town will be paramount to provide an element of pedestrian and cycle safety. Consolidation of vehicle access and deterring “rat running” within the town centre should be an important focus. Areas and streets which require particular improvement include;

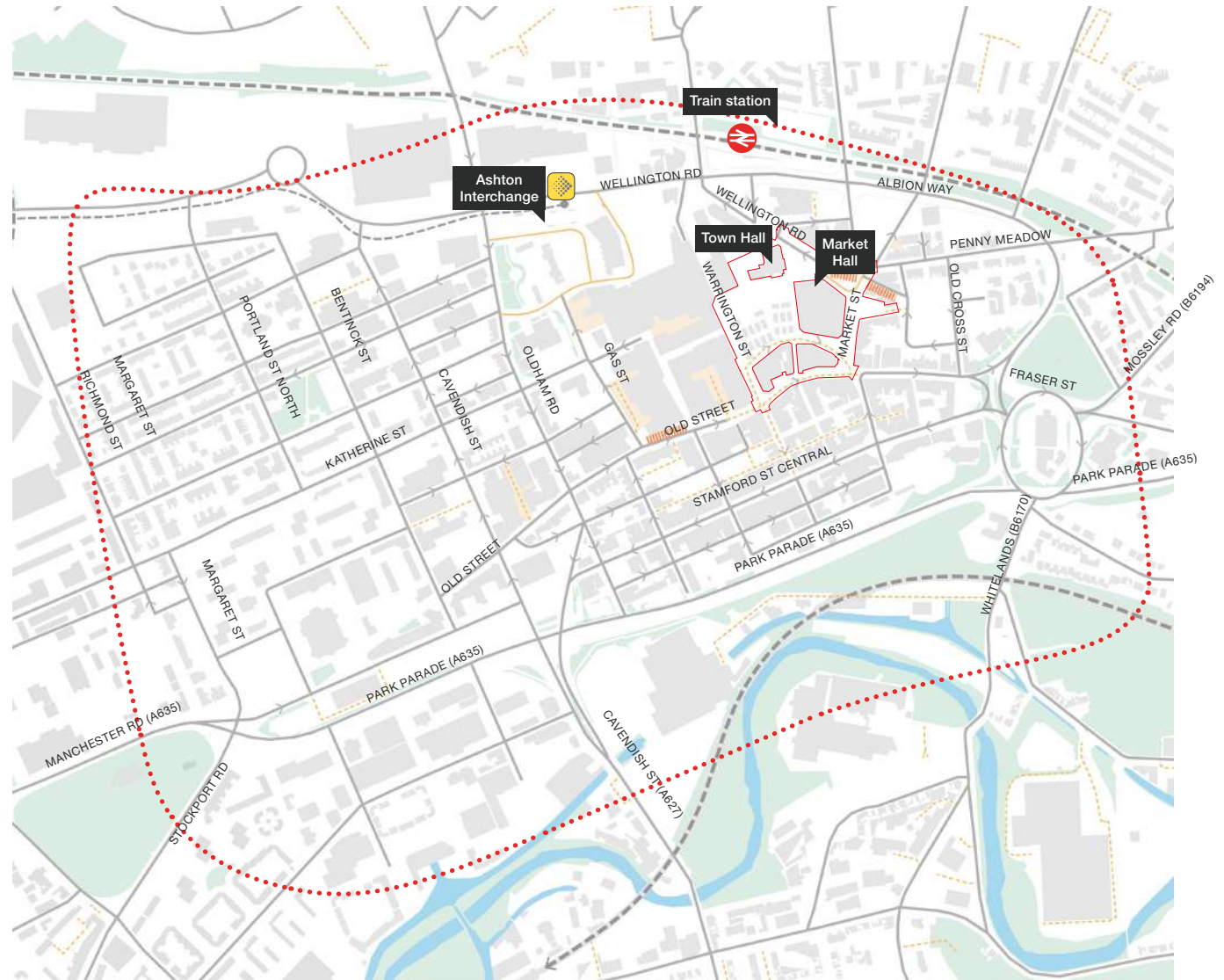
- North-south routes (Oldham Road and Cavendish Street) sever the town centre from the residential area to the west
- Car dominant streets particularly Old Street and Stamford Street Central
- Rat-running along Stamford street Central

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Existing car dominated streets surround Ashton town centre

- Key**
- Public Realm study area
 - Market Square Levelling Up scope site boundary
 - Vehicular movement
 - Existing Bus/ Taxi only
 - Existing one-way street
 - Existing taxi rank
 - Existing servicing areas
 - Existing service roads



Existing vehicular movement, taxi (and bus) only areas and servicing routes



Calm Traffic (Vehicles, Taxis and Servicing Routes) Movement Strategy

A sustainable town centre focuses on balanced streets which prioritise pedestrian and cyclist movement, and carefully design vehicular movement.

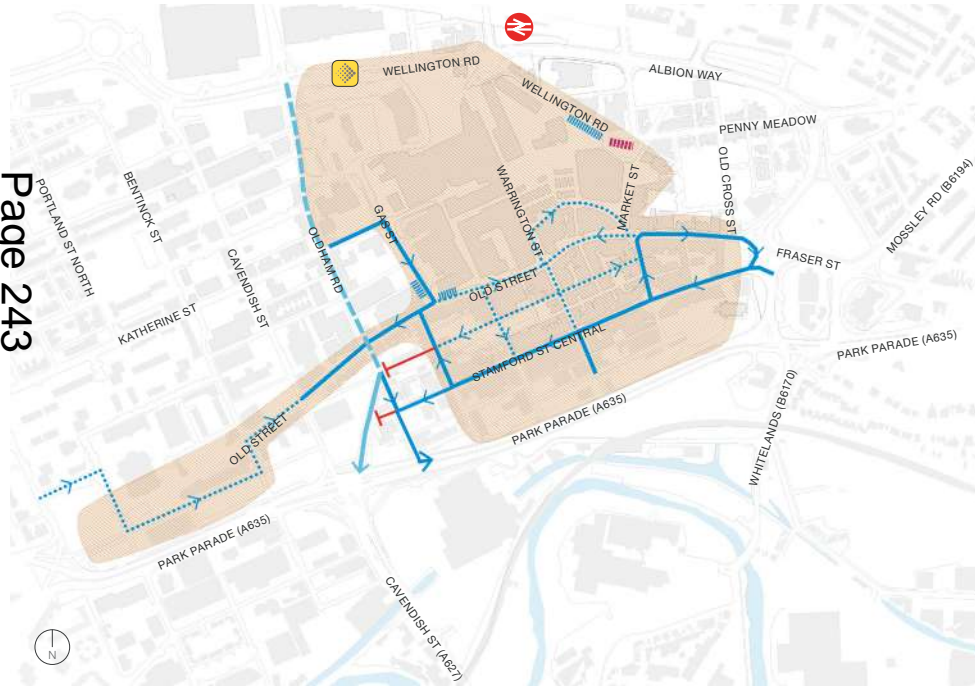


Diagram illustrating proposed vehicles, taxi's and servicing routes

- Key**
- Proposed narrowed and improved carriageway to one lane with designated cycle lane
 - Proposed improved carriageway, two lanes and improved cycle environment
 - Proposed balanced street giving priority to pedestrians
 - Proposed removal of through-route for vehicular movement
 - Proposed pedestrian priority street, restricted access for servicing only
 - Proposed Pedestrian Priority Zone
 - Proposed new one-way street (traffic permitted)
 - Proposed taxi rank
 - Removed taxi rank

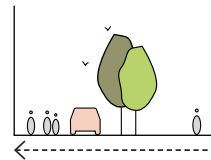
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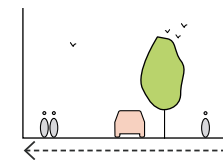
A balanced street including high quality materials, crossings, and street trees. Prioritises pedestrian and cyclist movement and accommodates vehicular traffic



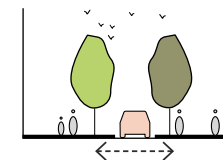
Providing wider pavements allows more space for spill-out from ground floor cafes and restaurants, to activate the streets and boost the economy.



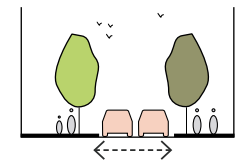
Pedestrian priority street: vehicular access is allowed in specific periods



A balanced street (equal priority): serve to reduce vehicular speed and dominance



Vehicular priority street (one-way): a differentiation of road and pavement



Vehicular priority street (both ways): a differentiation of road and pavement

Proposals and Objectives

- Create a sustainable town centre and support projects and initiatives that reduce reliance on cars, to
- Support walking, cycling and public transport initiatives to reduce congestion and create a connected town centre without reliance on the car.
- Reduce traffic speeds with interventions such as crossings, reduced carriageway widths, single surfaces.
- Pedestrian priority zone in the heart of Ashton with only servicing vehicles allowed in some locations.

- Improved carriageways along Old Street and Stamford Street Central
- New or improved pedestrian crossings.
- Relocation of taxi ranks to improve pedestrian movement along Old Street.
- Reduce to a single carriageway along Oldham Road to provide space for cycle route and bus movement
- Avoid rat running with improved circulation by consolidating east west access and movement along Stamford Street Central though to Oldham Road.

Bus Movement

Existing Bus Movement

The following points highlight the existing situation for bus movement around Ashton town centre;

- Ashton Interchange is integrated into the Metrolink stop which connects into Ashton from Manchester city centre
- Pedestrian connectivity from Ashton Interchange to the surrounding area needs to be improved with better wayfinding and signage

Opportunity to create safe and secure bus stops which provide clear wayfinding and signage to the Market Square and Hall

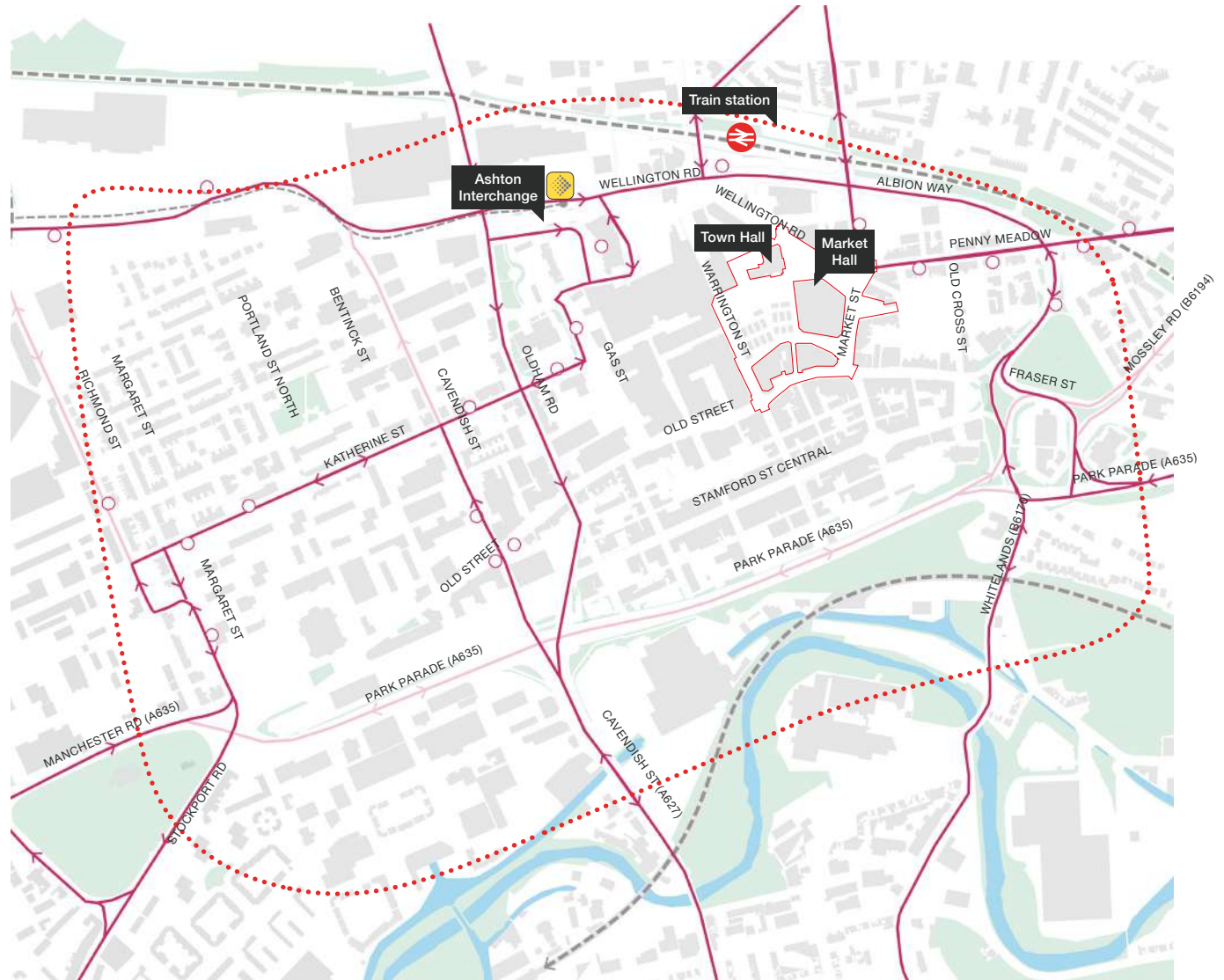
Ashton Train Station is within close proximity to the Market Square and also requires clear signage for pedestrians to locate themselves in the surrounding area.

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Ashton Interchange

- Key**
- Public Realm study area
 - Market Square Levelling Up scope site boundary
 - Existing public bus routes
 - Existing school bus services
 - Existing bus stops
 - One way streets



Existing bus transport routes

Connected Public Transport Movement Strategy

A well connected bus service will allow people to move around the Town Centre more easily to support activity in all areas of Ashton town centre.

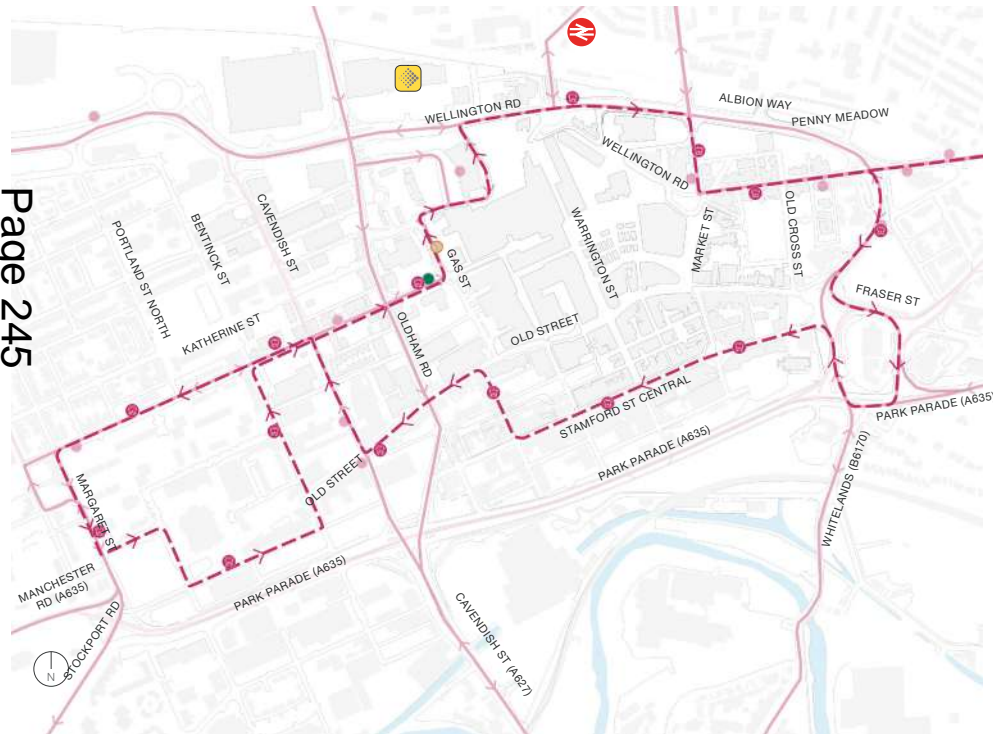


Diagram illustrating proposed bus route

Key

- - - Proposed community shuttle bus service
- One way streets
- Proposed re-location of public bus stop
- Proposed shuttle bus stops
- Proposed removal of public bus stop



Opportunity for streets to be designed to integrate community bus routes



Attractive bus stops with clear branding, sheltered seating and opportunity for green roofs

Proposals and Objectives

- Integrating bus movement through the town centre allows people to move around the Town Centre easily.
- Connect St Petersfield with the Town Centre and Market Square, Ashton Interchange and uses to the east of supporting businesses and employees.
- Transport strategy to support the recent Ashton Interchange development and movement flow.

- Community shuttle-bus network connecting the south of Ashton Town Centre (Stamford Street Central) with St Petersfield to support a night-time economy.
- Proposed removal of bus stop along Gas Street and relocation along Katherine Street to create a balanced street along Gas Street, prioritising pedestrian and cyclist activity.

Car Parking

Existing Car Parking

The following points highlight the existing situation for car parking within Ashton town centre;

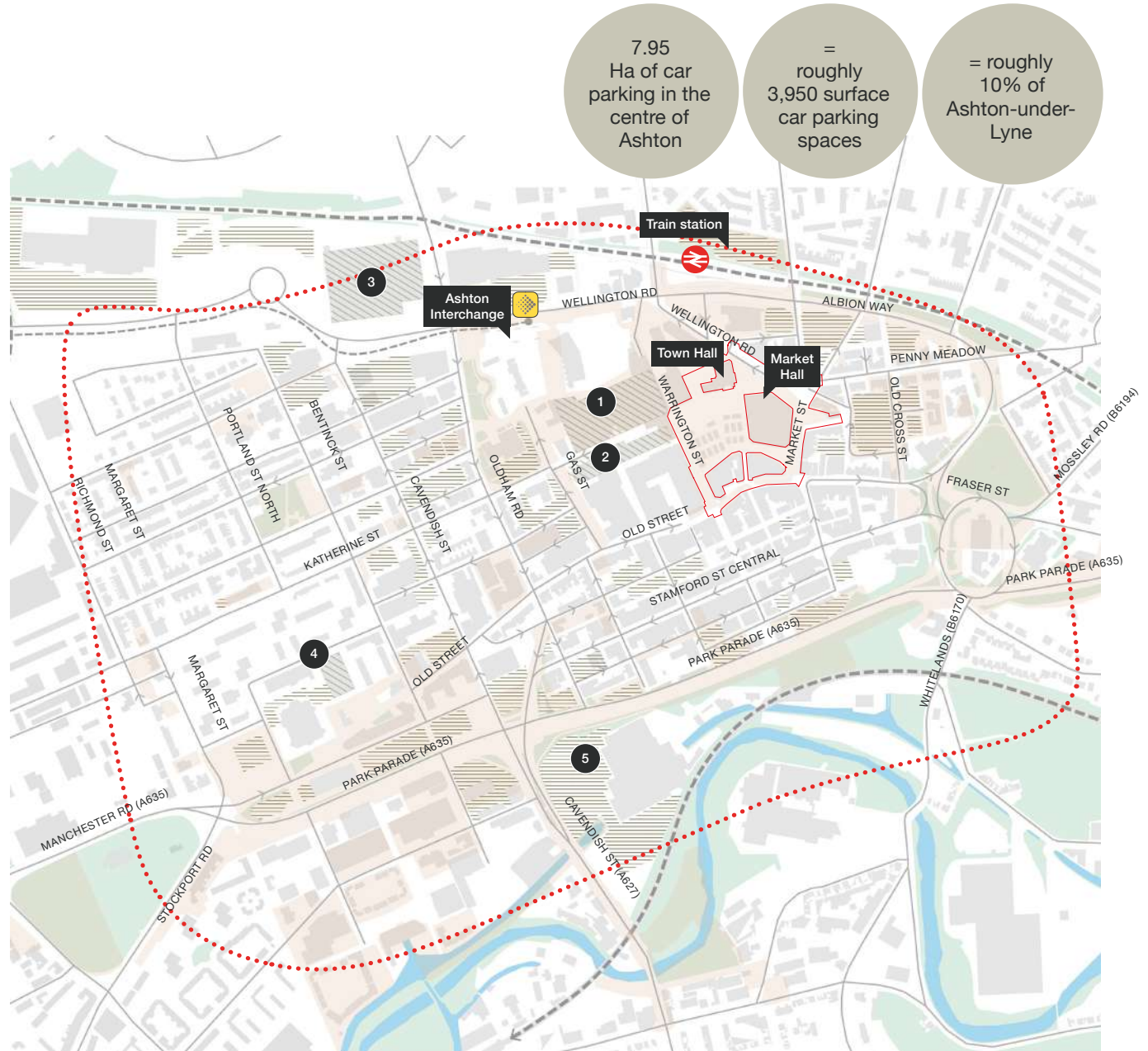
- The Arcades car park is an active multi-storey car park which sits on the edge of the Market Square
- Pedestrian movement from The Arcades multi-storey to the Market Square and Hall should be improved with clear wayfinding and signage
- Surface level car parks are on the periphery of the Market Square and provide close proximity to the heart of Ashton for pedestrian movement

Clear wayfinding and signage should excite and entice movement towards the Market Square, from the surrounding surface car parking areas

The multi-storey car parks and the number of spaces are:

1. The Arcades car park = 523 car parking spaces
2. Ladysmith car park (currently closed) = 200 car parking spaces
3. Ikea car park (free) -
4. Dale Street East car park = 198 car parking spaces
5. ASDA car park (free) = 600 car parking spaces

- Key**
- Public Realm study area
 - Market Square Levelling Up scope site boundary
 - Existing surface car park
 - Existing multi-storey car park
 - Council ownership
 - Vehicular movement



Existing town centre car parking and council ownership

Car Parking Strategy

An effective car parking strategy will support a sustainable and compact town centre, reducing pollution, improving air quality, safety and free up space for socialising and dwelling.



Diagram illustrating plan to rationalise car parking in the Town Centre, to retain the core for people friendly streets



Proposals and Objectives

- Improve wayfinding, signage and lighting to improve legibility for car parking.
- Improve existing surface car parks with improved lighting and surveillance to create safe and attractive environments.
- Improve air quality and reduce pollution by rationalising surface car parks to the edges of the core only, creating a pedestrian priority zone.
- Revitalise the existing multi-storey car park to create a central mobility hub, consolidating the amount of surface car parking.
- A compact town centre. Potential to utilise the existing surface car parks for suitable town centre uses that could support growth and economy.
- Identify development opportunities where there are existing surface car parking areas within Council ownership



A clear signage strategy will encourage better connections and more efficient parking



Example of a bespoke car park with natural green walls and place specific imagery on the exterior to make attractive



Clear signage for a multi-storey car park

Streets and Space Character

A network of streets and spaces encourages people to move around the town more easily, promoting sustainable travel. Improved streets and spaces will encourage healthy activities such as walking, cycling, recreation, leisure and entertainment.


Key








-  Key buildings of character and heritage
-  Gateways and Crossing Enhanced pedestrian and cycle connections into Ashton
-  Arrival Space
-  Ashton Interchange (Metrolink Station and Bus Station)
-  Ashton Train Station
-  Market Square / Quarter
-  Key spaces

Proposed key spaces

3. Wellington Square
4. Market Square
5. Fletcher Square
6. St Michael's Square
7. Old Square
8. Heginbottom Square
9. St Petersfield (Henry Square / Chester Square)
10. Portland Basin
11. Active Ashton and Tameside Cycle Hub

Key Streets

-  Lord Sheldon Way / Wellington Road
Introduce a cycle route & improved pedestrian crossing points in strategic locations to maximise ease of crossing

-  Katherine Street
A community boulevard which provides a main approach and direct route for residents into the Market Square, the Town Hall and Market Hall
-  Stamford Street
A film set for everyday life - bringing the internal uses into the streetscene, creating a vibrant high street
-  Old Street
A creative re-use and expression of the beautiful old buildings along the old high street
-  Oldham Road
More pedestrian crossing points, improved cyclist connectivity and opportunity for linear green features adjacent to the road
-  Lanes
Improved characterful north-south routes, connecting Ashton's arrival space (Ashton Interchange) with the rest of the town centre
-  Market Avenue and Stamford Arcade
Unique Avenue routes with room for business spill out and creating attractive routes
-  Park Parade
Improved pedestrian and cyclist crossing points

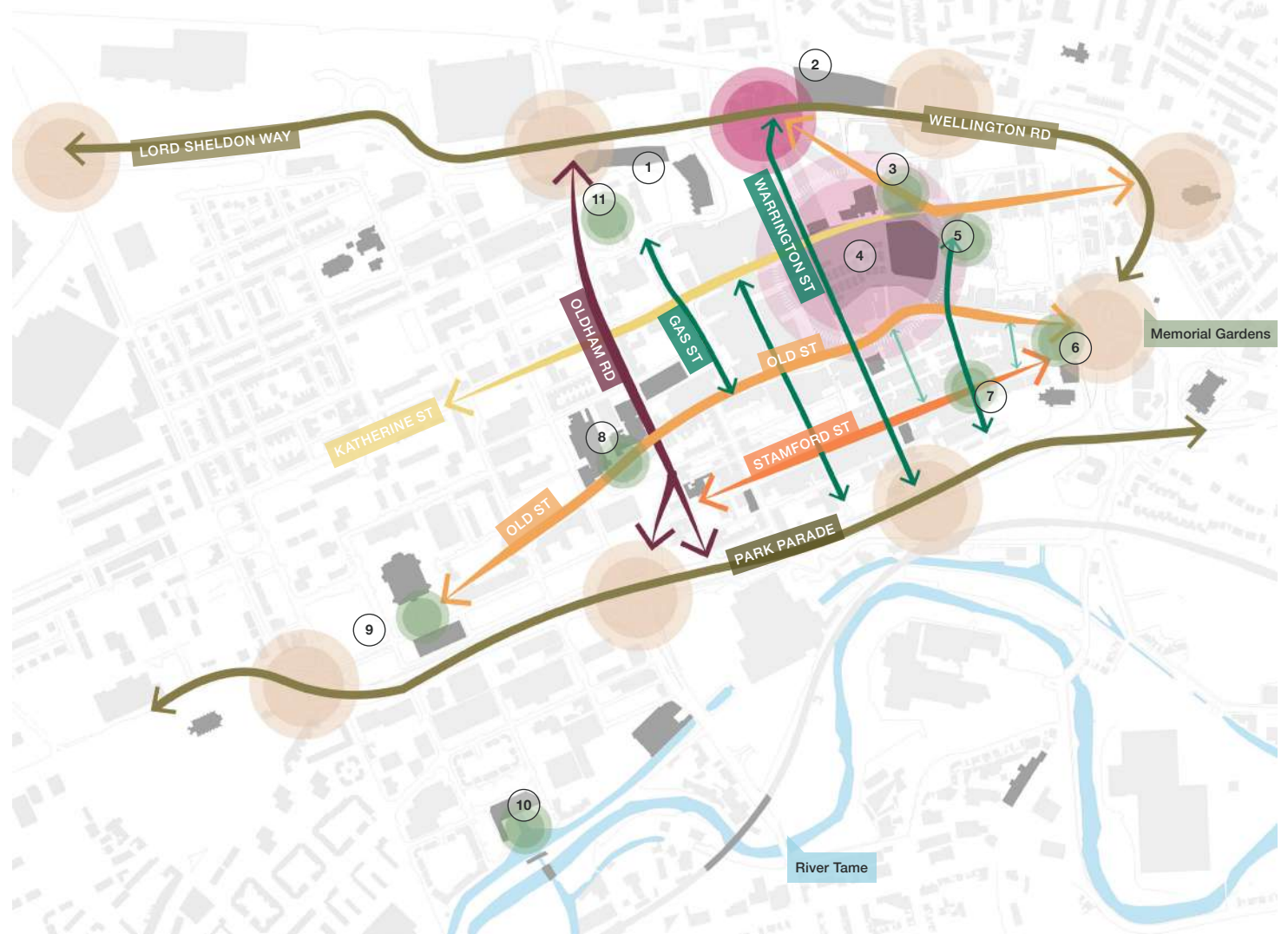
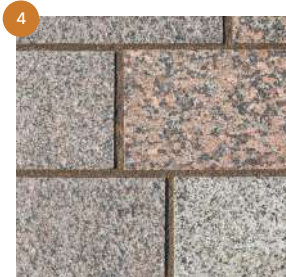
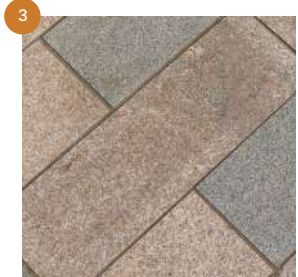
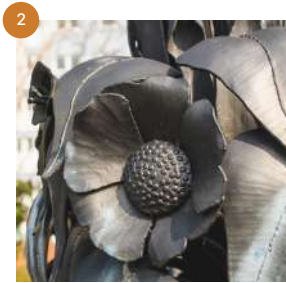


Diagram illustrating street character and key spaces

Materiality

Ashton is rich in heritage and its unique character will inspire a palette of complimentary surfaces, materials and street furniture to create a consistent approach in the Town Centre. Contrast in specific areas will create interest and variety.



1. Existing inlays in paving highlights landmarks in the town centre
2. Existing sculptural elements create contrast with street materials
3. Existing paving materials by Ashton Old Baths
4. Existing paving materials by the Ashton Interchange
5. Market Hall consists of red brick and stone detailing

Heritage Character

Ashton Town Centre and its Market Grounds consist of a variety of materials. The heritage buildings are predominantly red brick with stone detailing and occasional land mark buildings are made from stone such as the Town Hall. There are modern buildings framing the square to the east and south frontages, these are inappropriate and poor quality. The materials palette will avoid replicating these buildings.

Materials and structures within the proposals for the streets and spaces will consist of either similar materials or complimentary materials.

To minimise waste and reduce embodied carbon emissions, materials will be recycled or re-used where possible.

In order to fully understand the potential to reuse existing paving it is essential to understand the existing laying conditions, the depths of the unit sizes, and the ability to successfully lift the material without excessive breakages. A ground investigation is required to establish the existing situation.

There are many considerations associated with the re-use of materials:

- Tiles could be damaged or broken
- Ground conditions will need to be investigated
- Method of laying tiles and incorporating new tiles

Complimentary surface materials and patterns will allow for flexibility of materials and contingency associated with the re-use of materials.

There is potential to recycle broken surface materials and paving into unique street furniture elements, inviting local artists to design installations and usable street furniture, this could be incorporated in the surrounding areas of Ashton.



Design Drivers

Materials and street furniture will include high quality, robust and sustainable materials to create an attractive environment that is durable. The materials palette will be informed by the design drivers below:

- Contextual character - Materials must draw on the historical and present day palette of materials.
- Cohesive - Creating a cohesive public realm that expands and enhances the quality of the existing area.
- Inclusive and accessible - Ensuring that hard material selection and arrangement meets the needs of all users.
- Scale - Ensuring materials are of an appropriate scale and character for the use of the space or street.
- Durability - Material selection must be durable ensuring that each material is fit for purpose, easily sourced, has manageable maintenance regimes, meets all applicable B.S and E.N safety/quality standards.
- Sustainability - Credentials and carbon impact of the materials and products being used, in terms of manufacture and shipping/transportation.

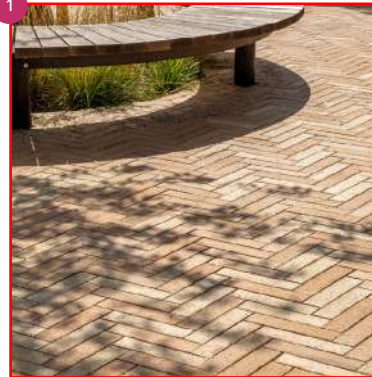
The specification of materials will be decided at detailed planning stages, costs and budgets will influence proposals. The following examples are inspiration for the selection.



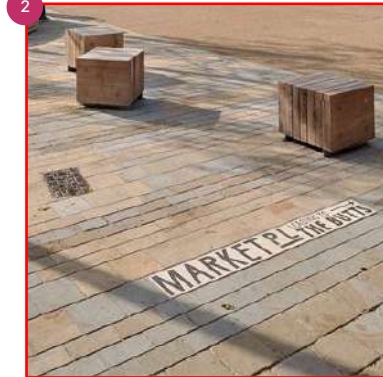
Heritage Streets, Bradford



Variation in flag and sett size to create defined spaces



Jyllinge Recreational Square



Reference to heritage engraved in surfaces



Example of existing floor materials combined with new surfaces



Kärđla Central Square, Estonian island Hiiumaa



Sustainability Ambitions

Ashton Town Centre will be a thriving and sustainable community for people living there today and for future generations, not just from an environmental point of view, it will include economic development, cultural diversity and social equity.

Climate

Ashton Town Centre should support the Tameside Council and Greater Manchester Net Zero Carbon ambitions. A variety of sustainability principles will reduce carbon emissions which will be supported in the design of the surrounding streets and spaces in Ashton town centre. Improved movement and connections will encourage active modes of travel including a walking and cycling strategy.

Improving air quality and reducing pollution with supporting the existing pedestrian priority zone, by reducing the amount of cars within the core of the town. An effective car parking and transport strategy will reduce carbon emissions and encourage walking and cycling. Cycle storage and electric vehicle charging points will support the ambition to support the Net Zero Carbon ambitions for Ashton-under-Lyne.

Diversity and Inclusion

Part of the town centre vision is to create informal and formal playful spaces that encourage children and adults alike to play and interact. A variety of activities and events within the Market Hall and Square, and surrounding streets and key spaces will cater for a range of demographics. Accessibility is key within the design, to create spaces and streets which cater for all abilities and capabilities within the street scene.



Cycling is encouraged with cycle storage and dedicated cycling routes

Environmental

A vital part of the Town Centre transformation vision is that of urban greening, planting street trees, and lower level shrubs to enhance aesthetics, help mitigate the effects of climate change and encourage biodiversity net gain. Seasonal, attractive trees and planting will create improved streets and spaces for people all through the year.



Trees and planting in the streets to provide shading and absorb carbon emissions to create better air quality,



Grey to Green in Sheffield, a Sustainable Urban Drainage system which protects the local rivers from pollutants



Community village co-op shops



Improvements to Altrincham Market and the surrounding public realm has been a catalyst to attract a range of businesses to boost the economy



Timber furniture

Economic

Active edges enliven the streets and attract new visitors, establishments and relaxation. Encouragement of dwell in the town centre will allow users to recharge, and carry on exploring, boosting the local economy. A programme of events will attract visitors and local people. A compact Market Square / Ashton town centre core will encourage social and economic community. Providing a range of community facilities within close proximity to public transport infrastructure and existing community assets will support the economy.

Social

A variety of seating opportunities are suggested to suit a wide range of users and encourage dwell in different locations around the Market Square and in the surrounding streets and key spaces. All user groups can be catered for and encouraged to use and enjoy the spaces. Play and leisure facilities for children and teenagers will be provided for to allow for a vibrant mix and sense of community.

Materiality

Use of sustainable and good quality materials in new built forms and the public realm is intrinsic to creating a sustainable Ashton town centre. Choice of materials is critical within the design of the surrounding streets and spaces in Ashton. The processes of production, shipping, maintenance, replacement and disposal will all have to be considered in detail.

Wherever possible, appropriate materials produced during the construction phase should be re-used within the design of the public realm across the site, reducing embodied carbon whilst tangibly celebrating the heritage of the site.

Timber furniture

New timber furniture proposed within the public realm for Ashton should be FSC certified and UK sourced.

The Study Area

The public realm strategy defines a long term vision and a comprehensive plan for Ashton Town Centre. The Market Square and Hall are the first steps of regenerating the Town Centre. This document focuses on Phase 2, the longer term interventions the later steps in further regeneration of the Town Centre.

The plan illustrates the area included within the Market Square Levelling Up scope with immediate plans for detailed design and delivery. The longer term interventions are labelled, the time-scales for these proposals will be confirmed at a later stage.

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Ashton Market is the beating heart of the town.

A modern market for everyone, a destination attracting locals and visitors, hosting a range of entertaining events.

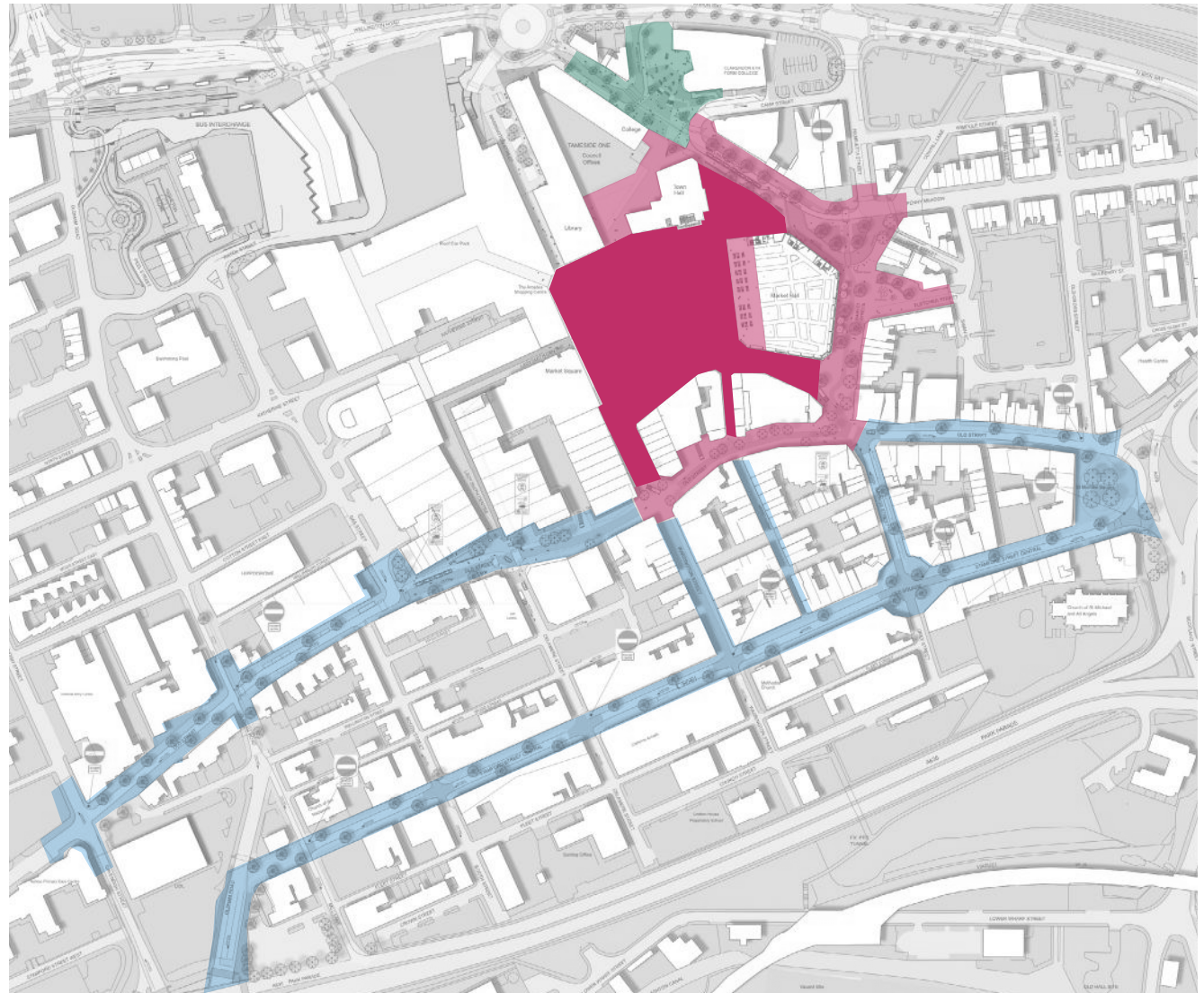


Diagram illustrating the Short term public realm interventions and the longer term interventions

- Market Square Levelling Up scope site boundary
- Detail design TBC past RIBA Stage 2
- Works outside Tameside One and Clarendon College ('Clarendon Link') by Tameside MBC, 2022
- Longer term interventions

Challenges and Opportunities

The regeneration of the Market Square presents an exciting opportunity for Ashton Town Centre as a new modern market town offering space for different types of events. Our plans consider the Market's strengths and weaknesses.

Challenges and Opportunities

The Market Square includes the impressive Market Hall and Town Hall also. The public realm has the potential to enhance the market and the cultural and leisure offer in the town centre.

Revitalising the Market Hall to connect the inside with the outside Market Square will encourage footfall and create a space for a variety of events. The Grade II Listed Town Hall will be refurbished and its heritage celebrated. Activities will spill out into the Market Square and encourage footfall and future investment.

Tameside One College and Clarendon Sixth Form College are within easy reach of the Market. The proposal to regenerate of the Market as the heart of the town will encourage students, young people and adults to visit and spend time in Ashton.

1. Improve visual connectivity
2. Enhanced transport hub connections
3. Town Hall activity encourages footfall
4. Opportunity for play, for families and students
5. Generous Market Square size creates opportunity for events
6. Opportunity for ground floor uses to engage with the street / public realm
7. Re-orientate market stalls to simplify space
8. Improve anti-social behaviour
9. Potential to create defined entrance to Market Hall
10. Opportunity to enhance existing food offer inside and outside

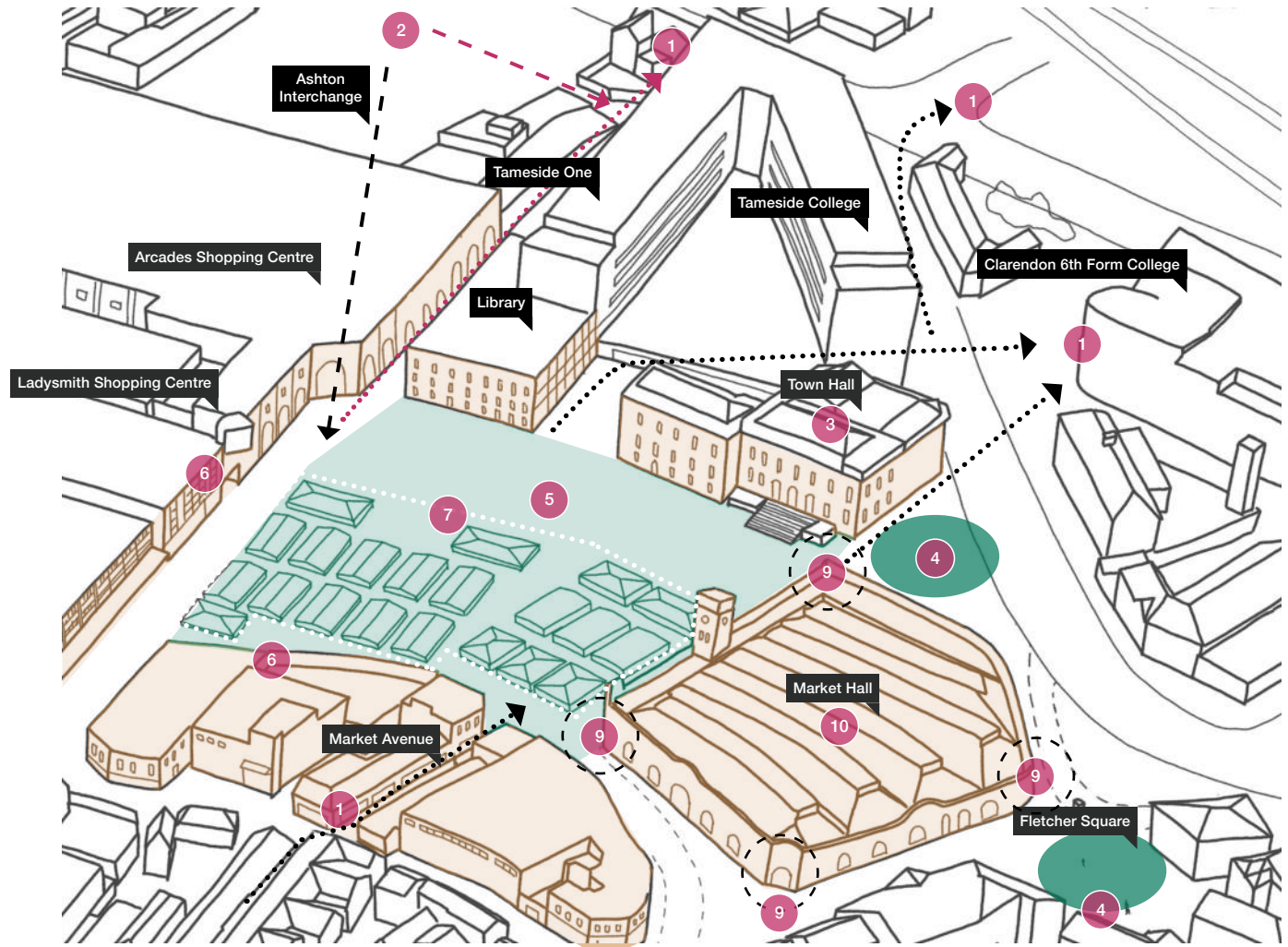


Diagram illustrating the key challenges and opportunities

Our emerging Vision for the Market Quarter

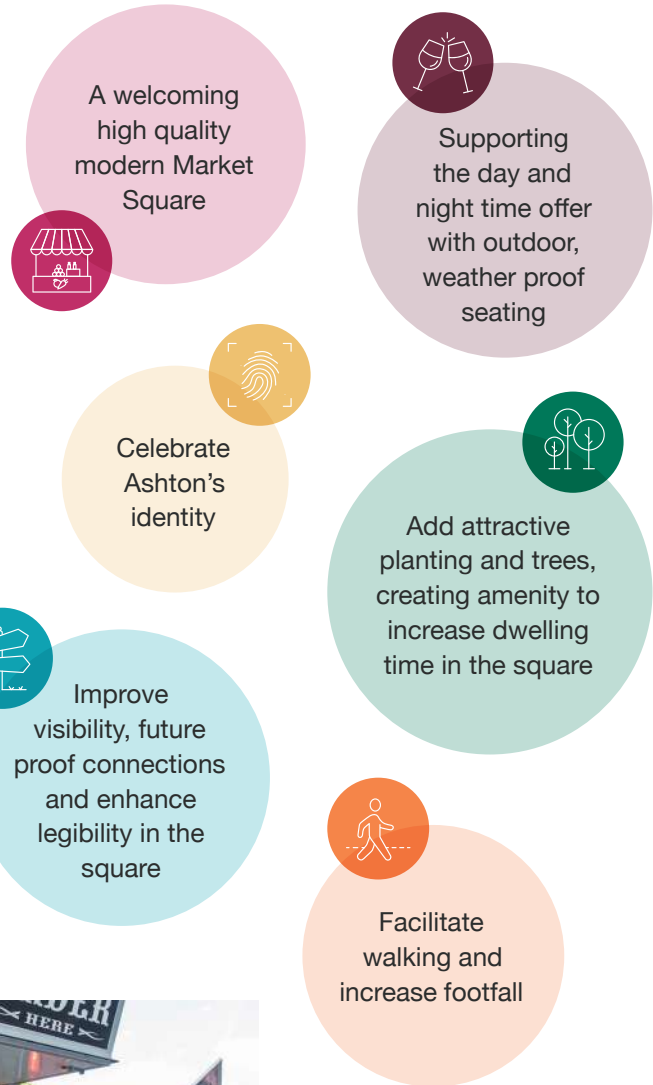
Ashton Market is the beating heart of the town. A modern market for everyone, a destination attracting locals and visitors, hosting a range of entertaining events. The surrounding streets and spaces will support the regeneration of Ashton.

The vision includes the following key design elements:

- A flexible space to support a programme of entertainment and cultural events to attract visitors into the town centre.
- Accessible and inclusive. A robust and durable single unified surface to meet modern accessibility standards.
- A layout to encourage permeability of visitors through the space, considering connections to the surrounding streets.
- Increased outdoor seating and tables for eating and drinking to support and enhance spill out from the market hall.
- A new canopy to provide a designated under-cover area for markets to include flexible and durable market stalls
- New trees and planting to create an attractive environment and improve air quality and carbon sequestration.
- An improved waste management system, improved public toilet facilities, and designated storage for stallholders.



Active edges around the Market Square will encourage footfall and activity



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Umbrellas with integrated lighting provide flexibility to assigned stalls for vendors.



Umbrellas with integrated lighting provide flexibility to assigned stalls for vendors.



Flexible, specialist stalls could be hosted in the Market Square

Wellington Road Gardens

A key arrival space situated by the Town Hall and drop-off which has the potential to become an inviting green gateway to the Market Grounds.



Location plan

Wellington Road Gardens will complement the Market Square offer of a public, accessible and calm green space to dwell. Key qualities include:

- Multi-functional planting design; Trees and planting species designed to reflect the history of the Market Grounds with “edimentals” - plants which are both edible and ornamental, as well as increasing biodiversity and aesthetic value;
- High quality design and materials which are consistent and cohesive with the Market Square;
- Buildings are orientated to provide natural surveillance to create a safe environment for all ages;
- Seating is designed to surround the space to provide overlooking;
- Integrated and screened bin store/ storage area;
- Maintenance/access route integrated within the design.

1. Existing trees integrated within the design
2. Bin and market storage building containing 20 x 1000L Eurobins and 8 store cages. Building to be screened with surrounding planting
3. Sustainably sourced timber furniture to planting beds allowing dwell opportunities and creating pocket spaces within the sunny arrival area
4. Reused porphyry paving laid in a crazy paving pattern to define the pocket spaces within the arrival area
5. Emergency vehicle route
6. “Edimental” edible and ornamental planting beds



Wellington Road arrival space design

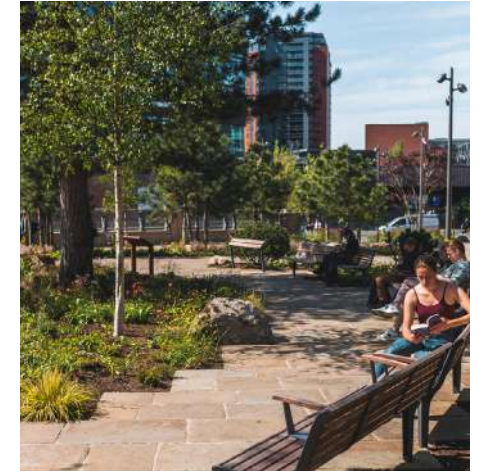




Social Seating Opportunities, Bright Building Technology Park, Bruntwood



Planting buffer creates separation from busy main road, Meadow Lane, Leeds (Planit)



Tree planting offers shade in sunny sport, Glade of Light designed by BCA



Wider seating offers potential (Planit)



Wayfinding establishes a sense of place, Grey to Green Scheme, Sheffield



Integrated features such as bug hotels, Wellington Place, Leeds (Planit)



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Market Street / Fletcher Square

Market Street forms a key north-south connection through the Grounds with incidental dwell spaces to complement the main Market Square.

Key features include:

- Fletcher Square: A more intimate arrival space connecting the east of the town centre with the Market Grounds. It will create a natural gathering/seating space adjacent to the Market Hall's food and beverage offer, and spill-out from surrounding buildings, but also form a flexible event space for smaller scale events;

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A cycle route through a Street creates a critical north-south connection through the town centre highlighting in the Public Realm Strategy;

Existing tree avenue on Market Street retained and enhanced with additional trees and underplanting designed to integrate surface water run-off;

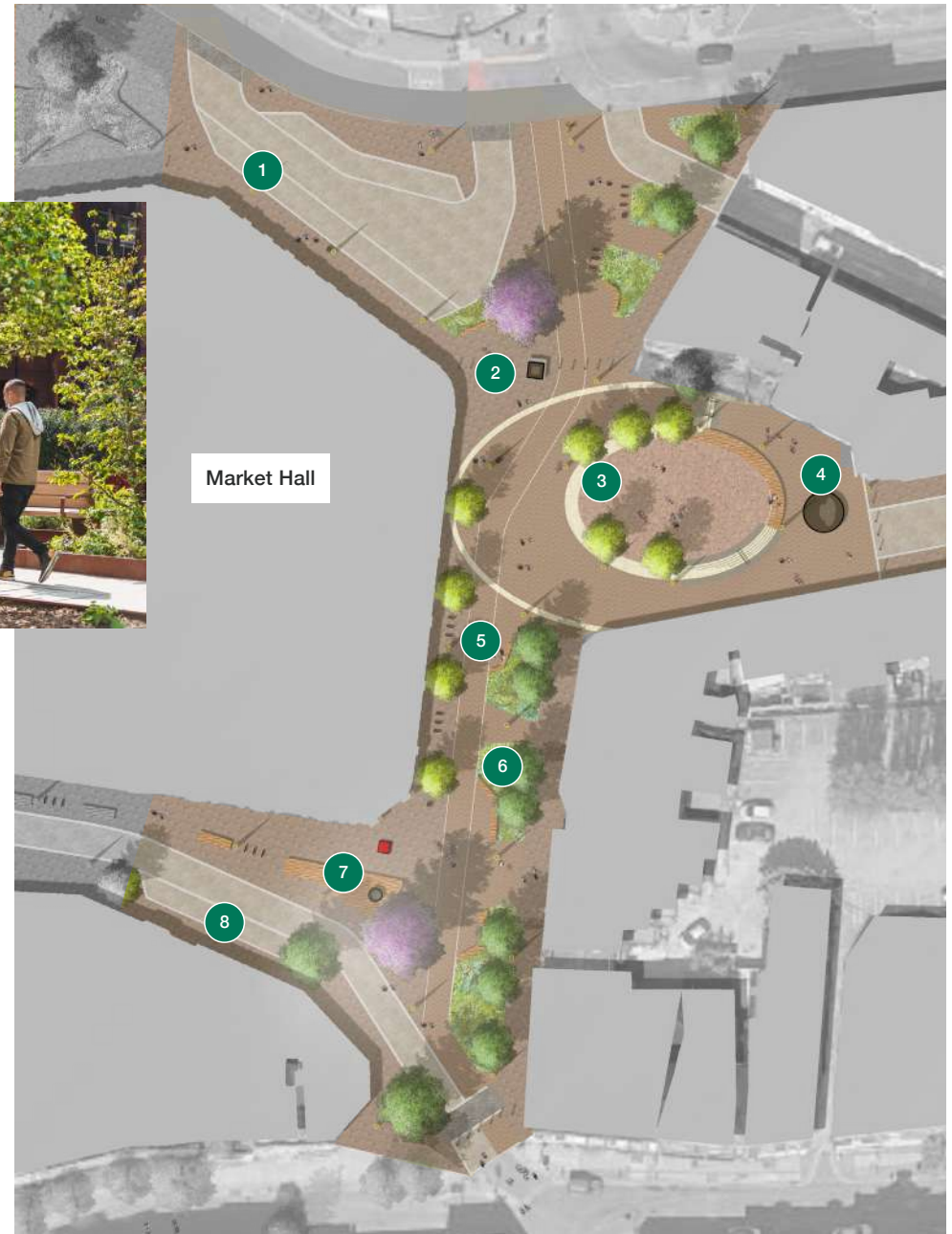
- High quality materials used and re-used within the spaces to create attractive streets and spaces;
- A range of seating opportunities making Market Street feel less “back of house” and encouraging people to stop and stay.



Welcoming green arrival space
Lincoln Square (Plantit)



Location plan



Market Street and Fletcher Square design



1. Servicing area relocated for enhanced pedestrian experience and easier access to the Market Hall
2. Bollards in line with existing clock tower for hostile vehicle mitigation
3. Fletcher Square becoming a more welcoming spill out space for the market and surrounding units
4. 'The Family' sculpture relocated to overlook Fletcher Square, wrapping it's arms around the space
5. Cycle lane integrated into the streetscape creating an attractive green, cycle and pedestrian route
6. SuDs planting strategy continued through Market Street as a continuation of the wider design
7. Bespoke timber seat/tiered lounger with 'The Pie Man' statue relocated as a focal point moving from the West across onto Market Street
8. Servicing Bay for southern part of the Market Hall



Flexible use space for events and everyday use



A greener Market Street with circulation space and areas to dwell



Provision for pedestrians and cyclists along Market Street



Stepped seating defining the edge of Battersea Power Station



Active frontages (Plantit)

Warrington Street

Warrington Street is a key north-south pedestrian connection in Ashton Town Centre, linking the historic Old Street with the Market Square.

Key features include:

- Spill out from food and beverage and other businesses providing amenity for shoppers including new fixed seating;
- Re-surfacing using materials consistent with the Market Square for continuity;
- Retained existing trees enhanced with underplanting designed to take surface water run-off;
- Integrated on-way maintenance/service route with shared surface design approach.

1. Proposed new and existing uses animate the edges, spilling into the streets
2. Proposals illustrate integration of green elements - such as trees and SuDS underplanting, improving biodiversity and walkability
3. Signage and wayfinding reflects the identity of Ashton's Market Square and the town centre, linking the surrounding context to the heart of Ashton, the Market Square and Hall
4. Timber furniture integrated into streetscene to create a more active environment
5. Greening the street with reinforcement of the tree avenue and new SuDS planting
6. Bollards at the south end of the street to mitigate hostile vehicles and limit servicing access into the Market Square



Location plan



Warrington Street design





Existing re-used pocket park installation with seating



Signage and wayfinding



Circle Square, Manchester (Planit)



An example of a tree lined, single surface, pedestrian priority street with vehicular access, Altrincham (Planit)



Example of a pedestrian priority street with tree planting and spill out from shops, Whitfield Gardens, London



Circle Square, Manchester (Planit)

Market Avenue

Market Avenue, a fully pedestrianised street and precursor of the modern day-arcade, is the key link between Market Square and Stamford Street Central.

Key features include:

- Spill-out from food and beverage and other businesses provides amenity for shoppers; attractive paving, street art, lighting, and installations lighten up the atmosphere and create an inviting environment;

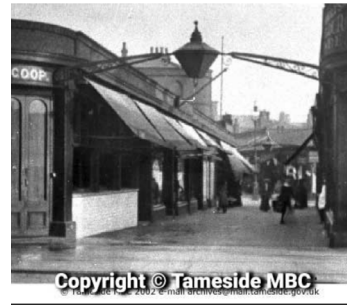
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An inviting, human-scale route into the heart of the Market Quarter whilst encouraging dwell-time in a cosy and sheltered environment;

- Existing street art retained and refurbished where required;
- Catenary lighting improves feelings of safety and create an inviting and lively atmosphere during night-time.

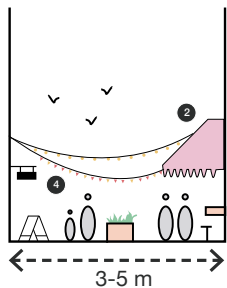


Photograph of Art sculptures in Market Avenue



Historic photograph of Market Avenue

1. The narrow market avenue remains predominantly open but allows for spill out from the building units either side with a main central route
2. Catenary Lighting aims to pay reference to the old market avenue arches



Market Avenue - Human scale of the link is further enhanced with catenary lighting and spill-out from surrounding uses.



Location plan



Market Avenue Design





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Real Drops Yard, London



Cow's Lane, Dublin



Art installations provide shade and create a pleasant atmosphere for pedestrians in a shopping area, Church Alley, Bluecoat, Liverpool



Exmouth Market, London



St Lawrence Street, Bath

Clarendon Sixth Form College and Tameside One Walk

Connecting the College with the Market Square, this route has the potential to become a valuable sheltered space with seating pockets, green amenity and rear spill-out for Town Hall events.

Key features include:

A combination of retained and new porphyry paving to create materiality links throughout the Market Grounds;

Seating areas carved out of hardy shade-tolerant planted areas adding interest through the walk and creating visual links to the Market Square;

- Rear garden to the Town Hall which future-proofs the space for potential refurbishment and events;
- Proposed public art/lighting centrepiece with direct links to the library and Ashton's heritage. This will be visible from both Wellington Road and the Market Square to help reinforce the link between the two;
- Functional lighting to bring activity and animate the area during night-time and increase safety.

1. Hostile Vehicle mitigation bollards to prevent access into the pedestrianised area
2. Planting bed and feature tree as an arrival node into the space. Enclosed by timber seating as a resting point along the route
3. Tree planting to add further interest within this space and create a greener environment
4. Opportunity to create a small pocket park or courtyard that spills out from the Town Hall as part of any future proposals
5. Sculptural lighting/art piece outside the library and art gallery entrance. A community based piece that gives residents a sense of place and pride. Telling a story of Ashton Under-Lyne



Location plan



Clarendon Sixth form College and Tameside One Walk Design





Well/rest spaces off the main walking route



St Lawrence Street, Bath



Different seating types to facilitate different kinds of users



Rear garden space to the Town Hall



Lighting/artwork centrepiece visible from Wellington Road and the Square



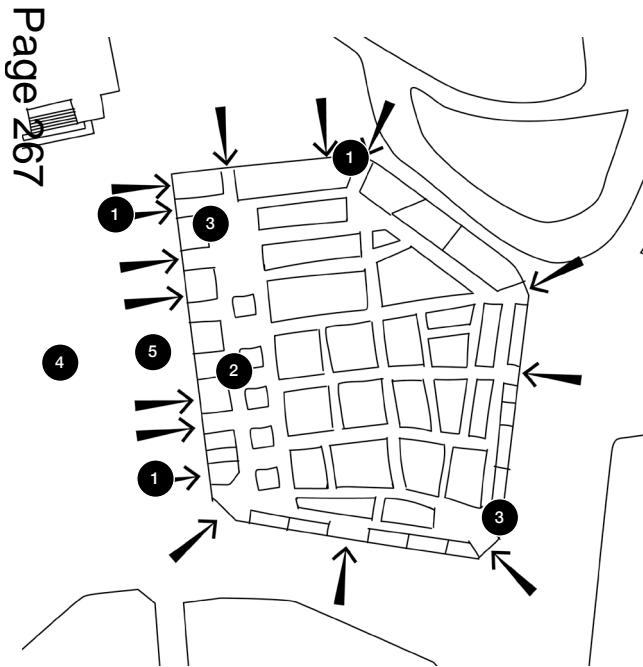
University of Manchester, Manchester

Market Hall

A key heritage asset, the vision is to celebrate the history of the Market Hall. Creating visual connections into the hall and improving dwelling areas in and around the building will allow for an improved relationship between the indoor and outdoor activities. The Market Hall will benefit from this relationship with the improved Market Square.

Proposals will look to repurpose vacant and underused spaces in the Market Hall for flexible uses including leisure, culture and events

Current Situation



Current Internal Layout Plan

The market hall will be reviewed subject to further studies and will be considered as part of future phases.

The key considerations to the existing Market Hall, include:

- 1 Multiple entrances which make wayfinding and circulation in internal market more complicated than necessary.
- 2 Toilets and stalls are adjacent to the main facade blocking the building's historic views
- 3 Few existing opportunities for eating and seating next to food and beverage offer
- 4 Market Hall activities are currently segregated from the Market Square
- 5 Outdoor seating is currently dependent on weather conditions.



Heritage assets from the Market Hall are hidden behind plaster and stalls

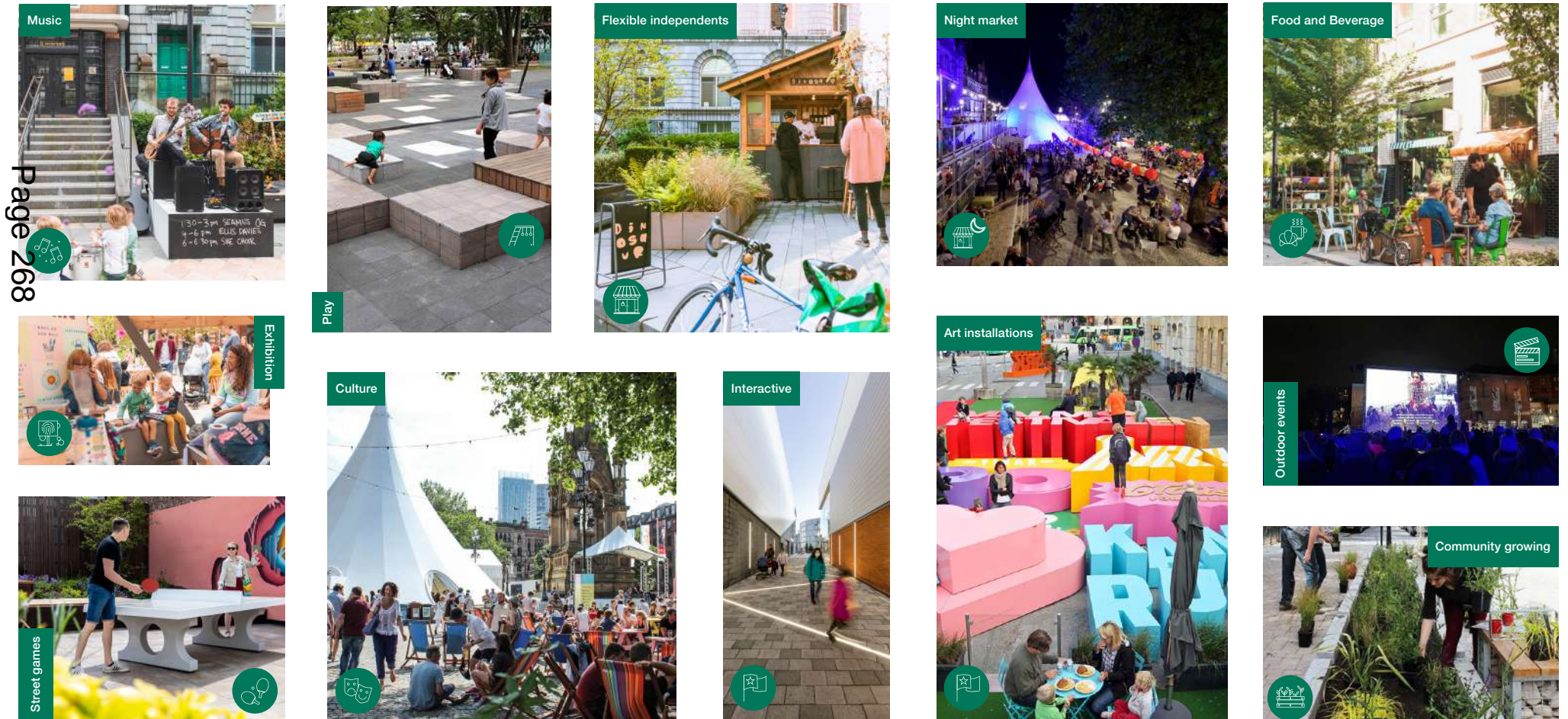


Informal seating from existing food and beverage vendors depend on weather conditions



A Programme of Entertainment and Events

A variety of events will be planned for the re-imagined Ashton Market Quarter including eating and drinking, crafts, culture and family fun, the heart of the town will be designed to welcome all ages and demographics.



An example of precedents for different types of events

Old Street

Old Street is a historic street in Ashton Town Centre, providing a key pedestrian connection from St Petersfield to the Market Hall and Square.

We are considering options to re-imagine this historic route, improve the environment for pedestrians and cyclists, whilst balancing the access needs of servicing, taxis and emergency vehicles.

Old Street would remain pedestrianised between Belamere Street and George Street but with access for cyclists. The sections that still allow vehicular traffic would be one-way and integrated in an overall pedestrian character streetscape.



1 Street with cycle parking, lighting and seating in Flemingate, Beverley



1, 2 Street with flexible space providing short term parking, tree planting, and improved crossing in Preston

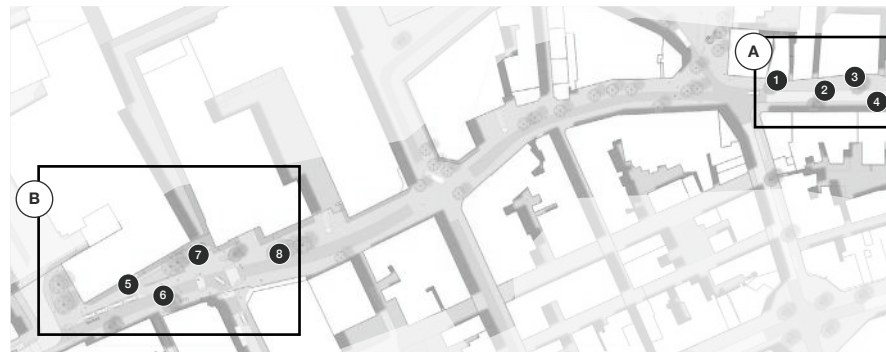
A Old Street (east) - typical section along carriageway



Old Street - A view of the proposed concept and principles, designs are subject to further detail analysis. Numbers relate to the design proposals key on the previous page.



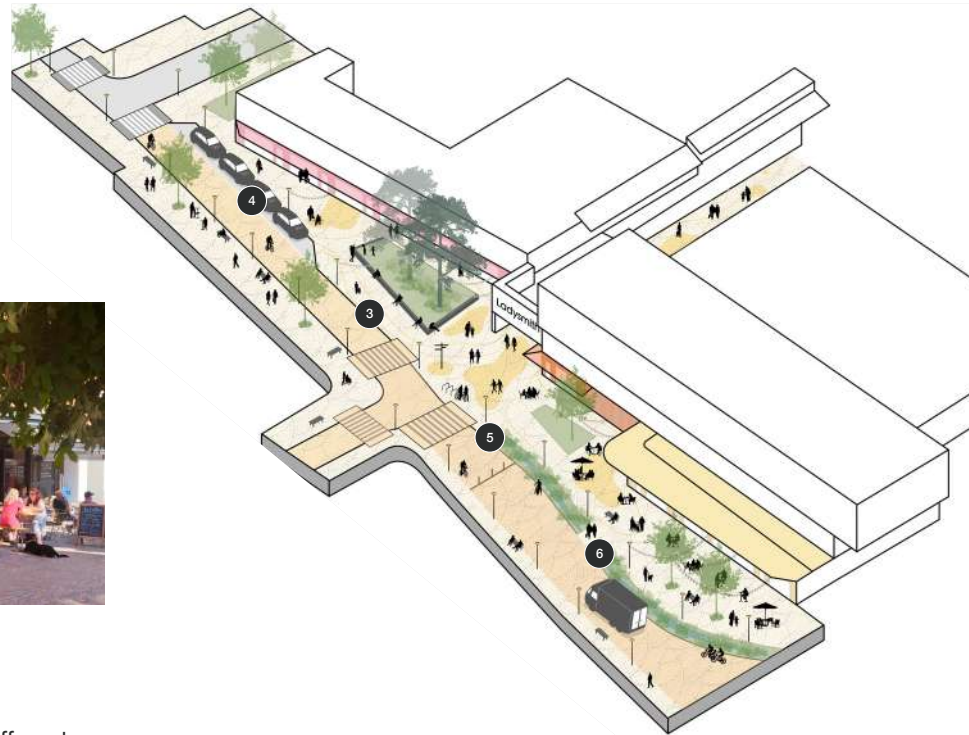
Location Plan



Location Plan

B Old Street at the Ladysmith Shopping Centre

Old Street - A view of the proposed concept and principles, designs are subject to further detail analysis



2, 8 Spill out space from shops and businesses into pedestrian footpath

1. Flexible space on footpath with different uses, including spill out space from shops and food and beverage businesses; cycling infrastructure; benches and seating; tree planting; limited spaces for loading, servicing, and short term parking.
2. Widening of footpaths to allow for pedestrian friendly streets and promote walking and cycling in the area. Improvement of crossings creating a pedestrian priority zone.
3. Active frontages from businesses and spill out.
4. Reduced carriageway with cycle route.
5. Widening of footpath to promote pedestrian movement. Green areas and tree planting with seating arrangements to provide amenity for pedestrians.

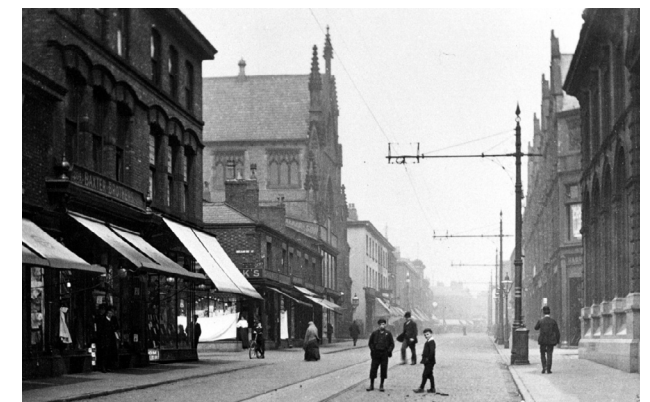
6. Taxi rank to be redesigned, relocation of some taxis around the corner to Gas Street, reduction of number of taxis on Old Street. Waiting area with greenery and seating for customers. Reduction of carriageway and restriction of vehicular access for Taxis and servicing.
7. Arrival space with improvements to pavement, wayfinding elements and cycling infrastructure.
8. Spill out space from businesses with outdoor seating. Greening and introduction of rain gardens in Old Street following the historic pattern of the street, to provide a walkable, pedestrian priority zone with restricted vehicular access for servicing.



5 An example of a pedestrian priority street with restricted vehicular access



8 Rain gardens on pedestrian footpath in Sheffield



Historic photograph of Old Street

Stamford Street Central

Stamford Street Central was once the High Street of Ashton, before the main trade shifted further towards Old Street and the modern centre.

Options to re-imagine Stamford Street Central as a film set for everyday life are being considered. The aim is to highlight the street's historic lively character while creating a walkable, pleasant and attractive zone with tree-planting and flexible spaces that will support resident's everyday life routine, as well as the area's day-time and high-time economy.

Stamford Street Central will become a east-west one way thoroughfare with pedestrian priority and cyclist traffic.



Photograph of Stamford Street Central, towards Old Square

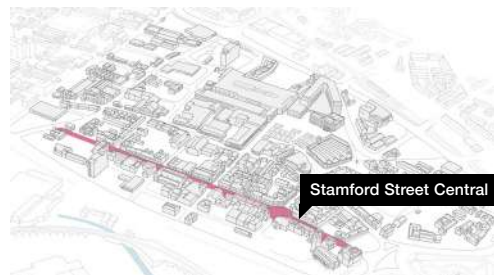


2 Introducing art in streets and crossings to create a vibrant, pedestrian friendly environment



2, 6 Changes of materials at crossings and intersections help create a pedestrian friendly atmosphere

1. Flexible space on footpath with different uses, including spill out space from shops and food and beverage businesses; cycling infrastructure; benches and seating; tree planting; limited spaces for loading, servicing, and short term parking.
2. Widening of footpaths to allow for pedestrian friendly streets and promote walking and cycling in the area. Improvement of crossings creating a pedestrian priority zone.
3. Active frontages from businesses and spill out.
4. Reduced carriageway with cycle route.
5. Reduced carriageway and widening of footpath to promote pedestrian movement and spill out into the square. Surfacing and materials helps create a unified balanced street. Green areas and tree planting with seating arrangements to provide a pleasant environment for walking, eating and dwelling.

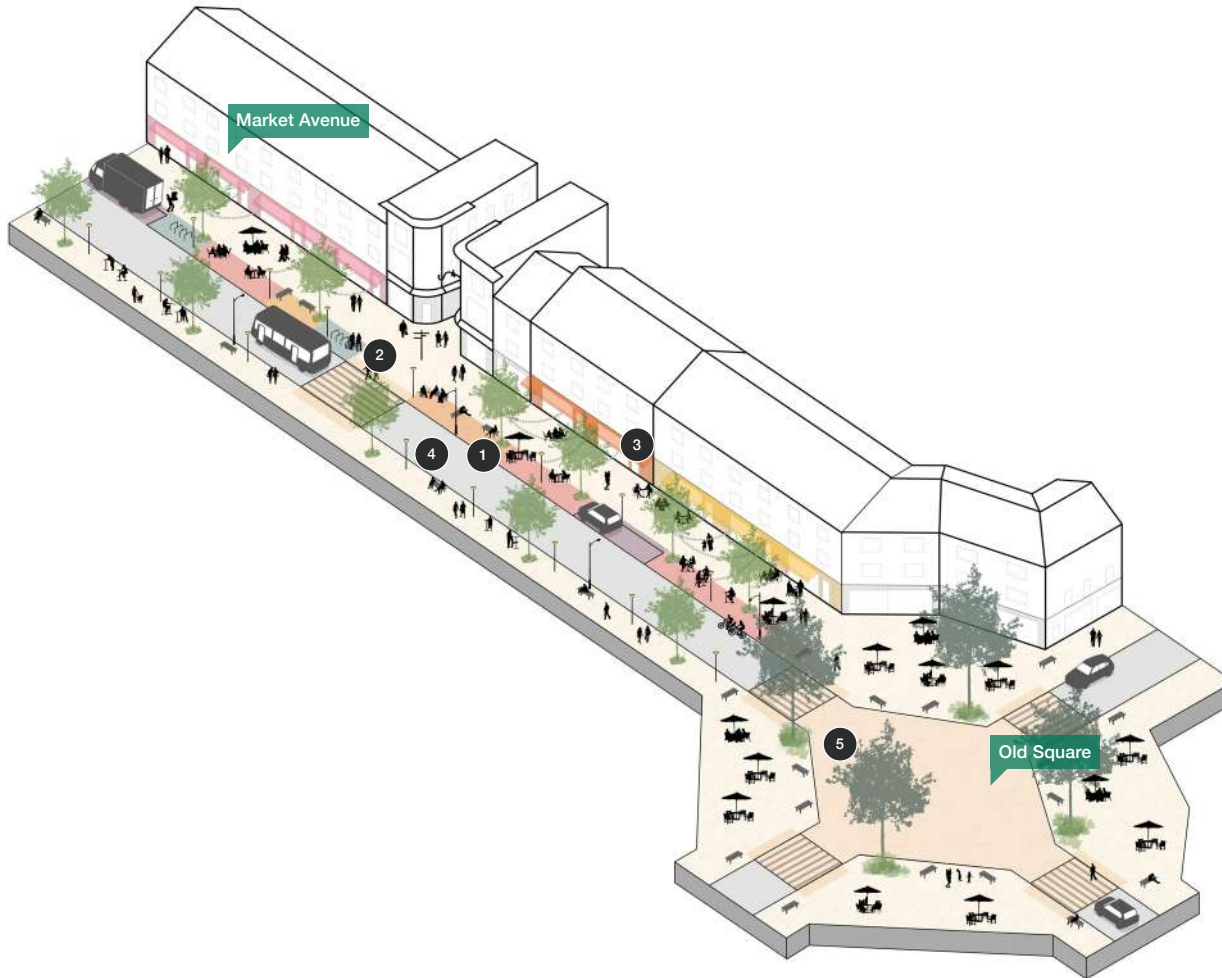


Location Plan



Location Plan

C Proposals at Old Square Junction on Stamford Street Central



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Old Square and Stamford Street Central - A view of the proposed concept and principles, designs are subject to further detail analysis. Numbers relate to the design proposals key on the previous page.



1 Example of a vibrant street with flexible space in Fishergate, Preston



1, 2, 3 Spill-out from shops and crossings in a pedestrian priority street



Historic photograph of Stamford Street

Oldham Road

Oldham road is a key strategic route, leading to Oldham to the north and Park Parade to the south.

Historically industrial buildings activated Oldham Road including the Gas Works and Goods Yards. Cotton Mills terminated the street to the south and the railway station to the north.

In recent years the street has widened to accommodate vehicular traffic. Our proposal to reduce the carriageway width and improve pedestrian crossings and street trees will create an attractive environment for walking and cycling.



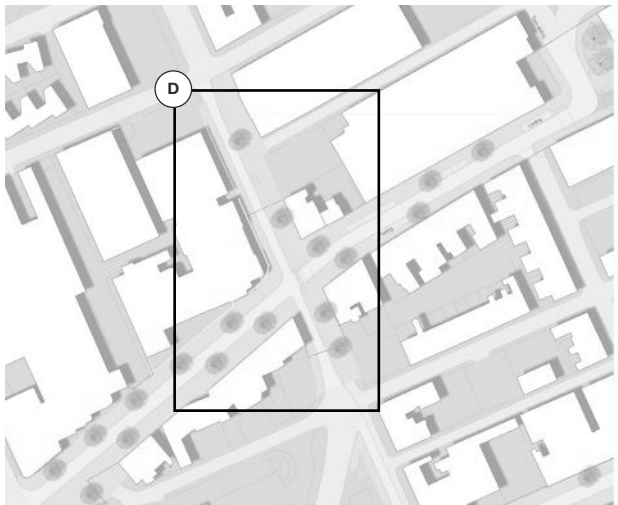
Location Plan



An example of an attractive public square situated by a historic building in Whitfield Gardens, London

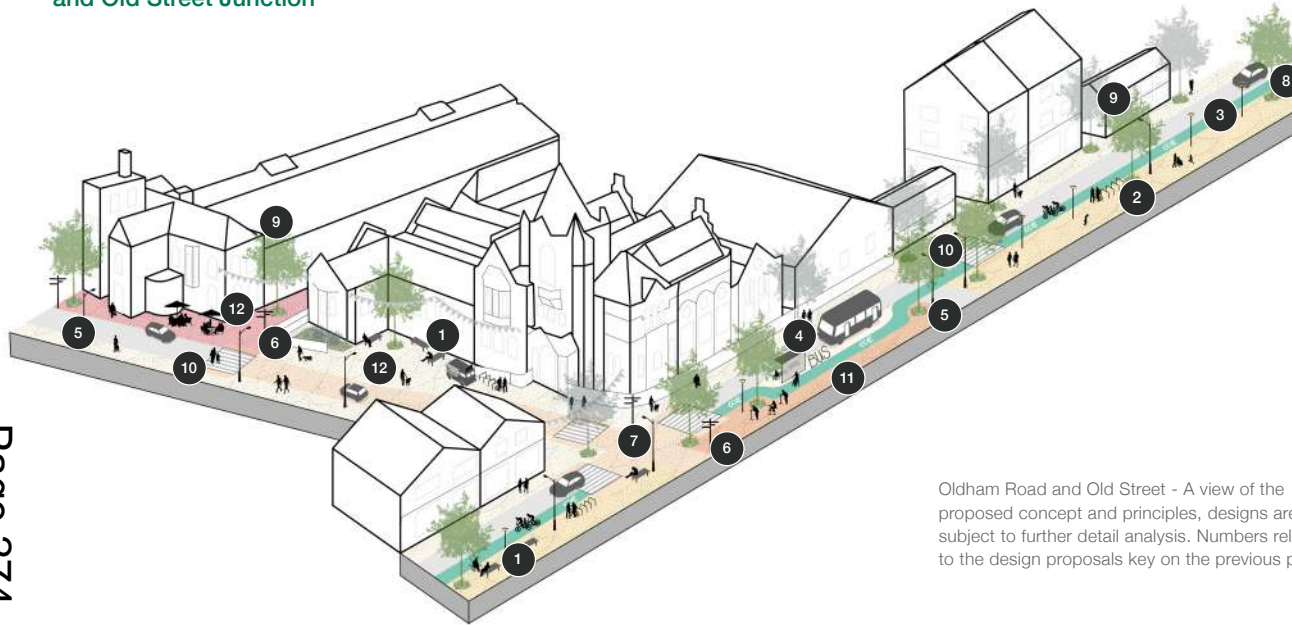


An example of seating incorporated into the public realm along a key route, in Leeds



An example of a paving details which define the existing, historic building façades along the street

D Proposals at Oldham Road and Old Street Junction



Oldham Road and Old Street - A view of the proposed concept and principles, designs are subject to further detail analysis. Numbers relate to the design proposals key on the previous page.

1. Seating allows for informal dwelling space along the street,
2. Cycle storage encourages sustainable modes of transport along this key north-south road,
3. Designated cycle lane for north-south cycle movement,
4. Bus stop for the public bus.
5. New street lighting improves safety at night time.
6. Clear signage and wayfinding elements at key points of movement.
7. Improved public realm at key junctions enhances east west movement.
8. Clear signage and wayfinding elements at key points of movement.
9. Improved public realm at key junctions enhances east west movement.
10. Reduced carriageway width increases pavement for pedestrian (encouraging walking) and reduces traffic speeds.
11. Street trees create an attractive and green environment, creating shade where needed and seasonal interest.
12. Pedestrian priority crossing.
13. Spill out along the street for new and existing uses (Theatre Tavern and Hippodrome).
14. Opportunity to create a defined square (Heginbottom Square) to clearly define and activate the historic buildings of Ashton Old Library and the Old Drill Hall. Potential to create spill-out space for internal uses



An example of a designated cycle pathway which meanders along the road edge



An example of a pedestrian crossing which announces a key gateway with installations



Historic photograph of Oldham Road

Katherine Street

A historic east-west link into the Market square, Katherine Street is mainly of residential character with some pockets of commercial and community activity.

Historically terraced homes activated the street, terminating at Market Square. In recent years, the street pattern was severed to accommodate the modern arcades, restricting public access from Katherine Street into the square.

Our proposal to improve the public realm Katherine Street will future proof the route into the town heart and promote residential growth to the west of Ashton.

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Photograph of Katherine Street in the present day



An example of a tree-lined street with an attractive bus shelter with green roof

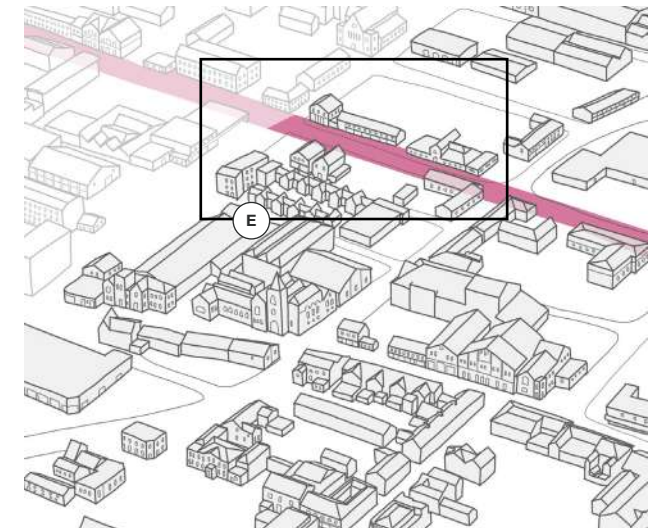


Raingardens help manage rainwater and improve biodiversity, whilst creating an attractive walking environment

1. Widening of footpath to promote pedestrian movement. Reduced carriageway width increases pavement for pedestrians to promote walking and reduces traffic speeds.
2. Street trees create an attractive and green environment, creating shade where needed and seasonal interest.
3. Bus stops for the public and community bus.
4. Seating arrangements to provide amenity for pedestrians.
5. Cycling infrastructure provides secure parking.
6. Introducing rain gardens reduces the impact of urbanisation on flooding, allowing vegetation and plants to absorb the majority of the rainwater.



Location Plan



E Katherine Street opposite Bentinck Street junction



Isometric view of Katherine Street at Bentinck Street Intersection- a conceptual aspiration of the potential for the area, designs are subject to further detail analysis. Numbers relate to the design proposals key on the previous page.



Wide footpaths and tree planting create a pleasant atmosphere for pedestrians and residents



Tree planting, cycle parking and seating in Fishergate, Preston Town Centre



A historical photo of Katherine Street.

Lanes and Market Avenue

Warrington Street and George Street and Market Avenue are the main north-south pedestrian movement routes in Ashton Town Centre.

Market Avenue, a fully pedestrianised street and precursor of the modern day-arcade, is the key link between Market Square and Stamford Street Central.

Improvements to the public realm are proposed, creating a lively and inviting atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. Spill out from food and beverage and other businesses provides amenity for shoppers; attractive pavement, street art, lighting, and installations lighten up the atmosphere and create an inviting environment.



Location Plan

George Street and Warrington Street



An example of a tree lined, single surface, pedestrian priority street with vehicular access

Market Avenue and Stamford Arcade

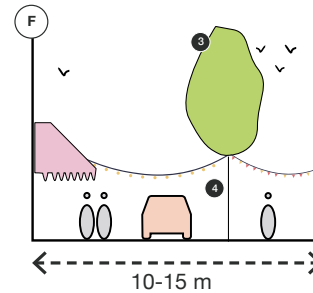


Lighting and spill out from shops on a street in Newcastle

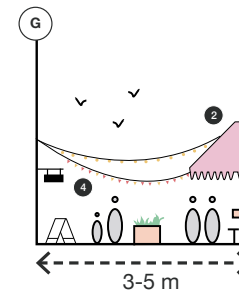
Gas Street



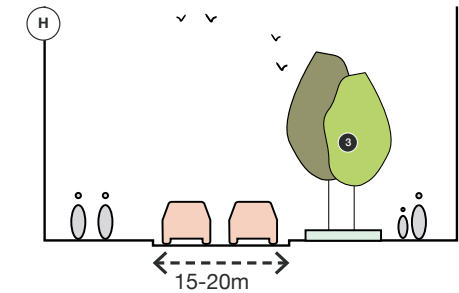
An example of a balanced street with feature planting



George Street and Warrington Street - a conceptual aspiration of the potential for the area, designs are subject to further detail analysis



Market Avenue and Stamford Arcade Section - a conceptual aspiration of the potential for the area, designs are subject to further detail analysis



Gas Street Section - a conceptual aspiration of the potential for the area, designs are subject to further detail analysis

1. With new and existing uses animating the edges and spilling into the streets, the lanes and Market Avenue should seek to create an inviting, human-scale route into the heart of the Market Quarter whilst encouraging dwell-time in a cosy and sheltered environment.
2. Highlighting and celebrating the historic significance of Market Avenue as a commercial arcade, creating spaces to dwell for shoppers with attractive art installations and seating arrangements.
3. Proposals in Warrington Street, Gas Street, and George Street seek to integrate green elements - such as trees or green walls - where possible, improving biodiversity and walkability.
4. Introducing attractive lighting ie. in trees and string lined lights, improves feelings of safety and create an inviting atmosphere during night-time.



pedestrian only lane in Altrincham with tree planting



Photograph of Market Avenue



Photograph of Art sculptures in Market Avenue



George Street at the intersection with Old Square

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Lighting strategy in Rochdale Riverside creates a fun, safe, walkable environment



Art installations provide shade and create a pleasant atmosphere for pedestrians in a shopping area in Liverpool



Street art and murals animate a street in New Zealand



A historical photo of Market Avenue

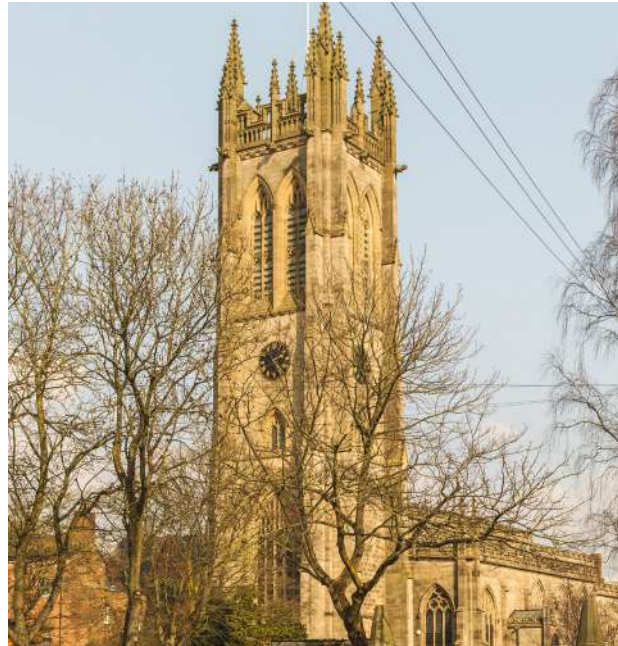
St. Michael's Square

Historically, the town of Ashton originated around this square due to its proximity with St. Michael's Church, dating back to 1262. This square also housed the original town market.

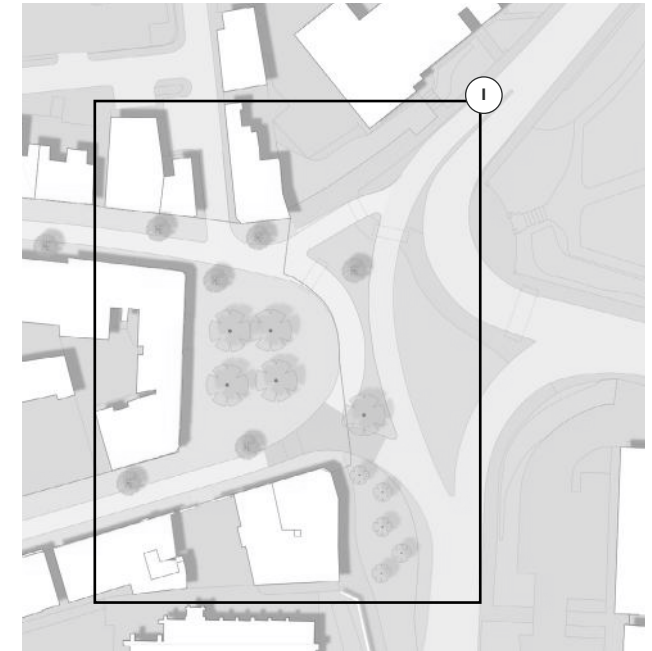
St Michael's Square is situated at the meeting point of Old Street with Stamford Street Central. There is potential to create a sense of arrival in this key intersection, with an urban square that celebrates the history of Ashton.

There is potential to relocate Ashton's Old Market Cross from Stamford Park to its original location in St. Michael's Square, celebrating and highlighting the history of the square.

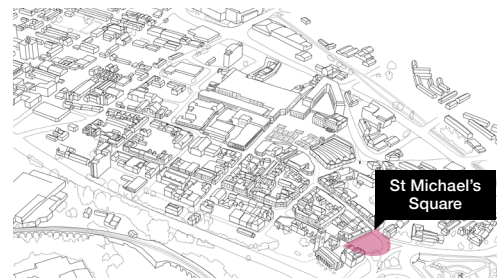
1. Existing and new uses animate the edges and spill into the square, St Michael's has the opportunity to create a pleasant environment for food and beverage.
2. Green buffer screens the busy intersection of Cricket's Lane N, with tree planting and spaces for walking and dwelling.
3. Celebrating the historic significance of the square with sculptures and seating to reference Ashton's history and play tribute to St. Michael's church.
4. Creating connections to the town centre across Cricket's Lane N to Memorial Gardens.
5. Reduction of carriageway, slowing cars and prioritising pedestrians over cars
6. Extension of cycle lane into Old Street, promoting cycle movement into the heart of the town
7. Introduction of attractive tree planting, street art, integrated seating and cycle infrastructure to create a destination.



Photograph of St. Michael's Church in the present day



Location Plan



Location Plan

① St. Michael's Square, junction of Old Street and Stamford Street Central

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Concept design of St. Michael's Square, designs are subject to further detail analysis. Numbers relate to the design proposals key on the previous page.



Example of unique seating which references the character of the area - Goose Green, Altrincham



Example of a pedestrianised square with seating, planting and cycle parking. Art murals on blank façades create a vibrant backdrop to the square and opportunity to create historical references



Example of nighttime economy thriving in an attractive square - Goose Green, Altrincham

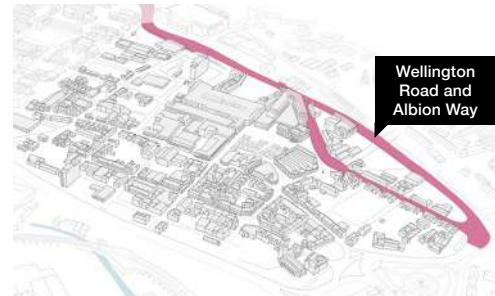
Wellington Road and Albion Way

The proposals for Wellington Street and Albion Way should include the following design principles:

- Segregate cycle tracks on both sides of the road.
- Modify junction at the exit from the bus station and the Ashton retail park, incorporate a new Cyclops arrangement, providing segregated, signalised facilities for cyclists, to improve road safety for all road users.

Measures to slow and control vehicle speeds and provide enhanced priority for pedestrian users, potentially including a reduction in carriageway width, increased landscaping, different surfacing materials and the introduction of pedestrian crossing points.

- Removal of traffic signals at the junctions at Turner Lane and Henrietta Street in order to help reduce vehicle speeds.
- Reduce the carriageway space past the interchange.



Location Plan

Precedent imagery representing proposals for Wellington Road and Albion Way



Example of junction, Poynton roundel



Segregated cycle lanes in Leeds

Visuals representing proposals for Wellington Road and Albion Way



Visualisation: Junction with Turner Lane



Visualisation: Albion Way

Brand Identity

Vibrant branding is pivotal to creating an attractive, successful and thriving town centre.

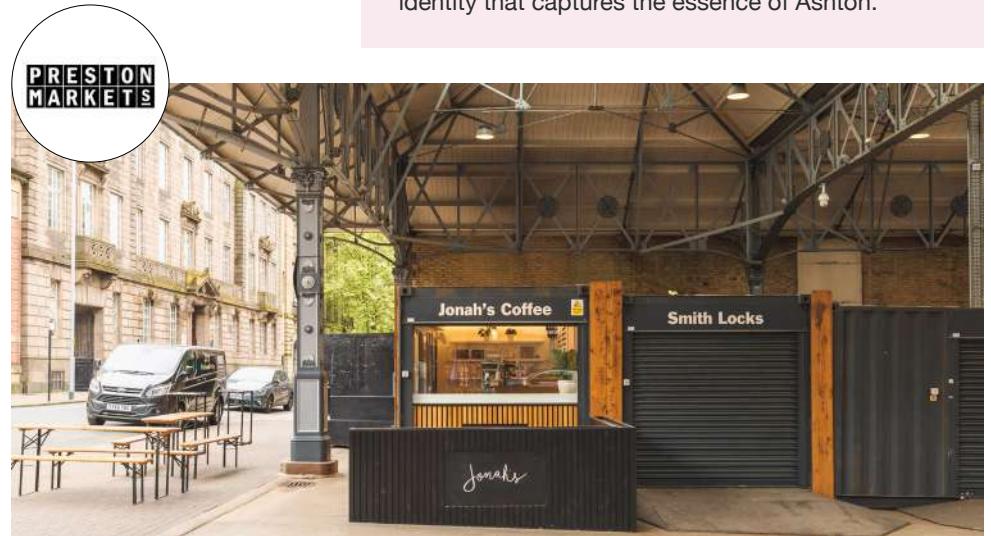
The adjacent images are all examples of successful UK markets where good branding has elevated their appeal to a wider audience.

Ashton Market Square is currently lacking branding and identity. There is potential to create an iconic logo and branding for the market and wider town centre which reflects the history of Ashton, that will give potential to create a market that is a destination venue. The branding proposals for the Market Square should interlink with the surrounding branding for Ashton town centre.

This same logo can be utilised across all social media platforms and any marketing imagery used to promote future events, drawing a wide audience to create a sustainable town for Ashton-under-Lyne.



Warrington Market has created an attractive space in the town



Preston Market - simple and successful branding defines the upgrades to the market



Altrincham Market has transformed Altrincham into a vibrant town



Hatch - a popular temporary food market in central Manchester



Mackie Mayor - a thriving central Manchester food market and evening venue

A recommendation is to create a brand identity and tool kit to be implemented within the public realm design and marketing, to create a unique identity that captures the essence of Ashton.

Lighting

Lighting can alter the atmosphere of a place and create lively unique spaces.

Although its primary purpose is night-time visibility for security and safety, successful street lighting takes into account the human users of the street, and curates a sense of place or atmosphere. The type, placement, and wattage of street lighting affects how a street is perceived and used.

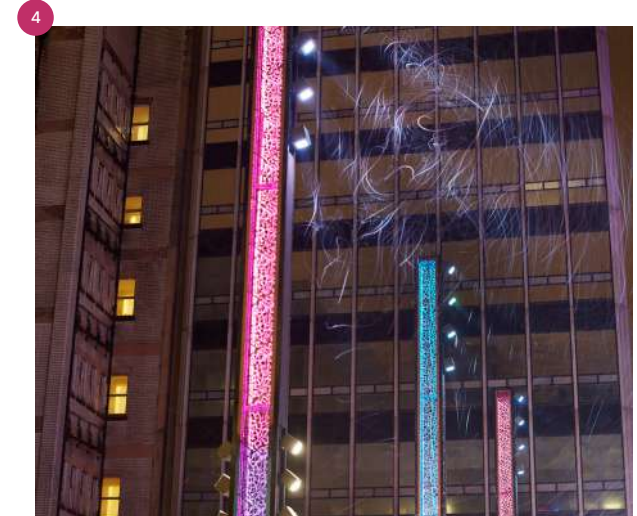
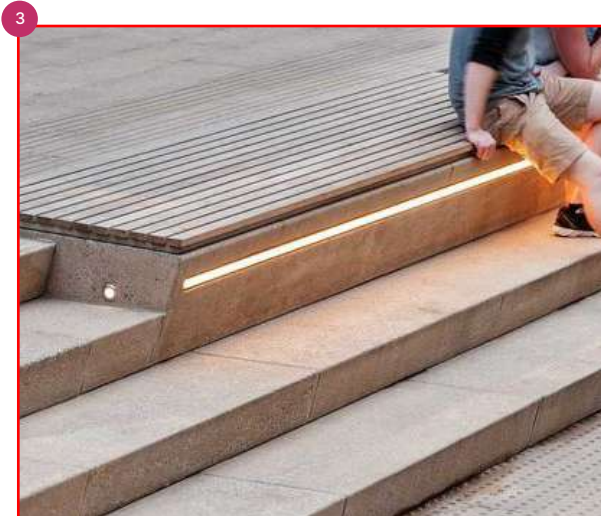
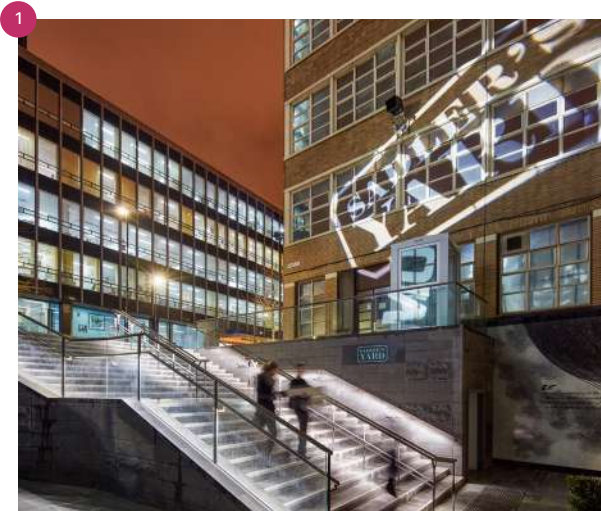
Lighting design will celebrate the distinctive identity and history and draw attention to the uniqueness of Ashton.

Lighting will animate the spaces and create a safe and vibrant environment at night-time.

Lighting in the streets and spaces of Ashton will:

Increase safety in high-use spaces and movement corridors, such as walkways and bus stops.

- Aid in geographic orientation, as people can use well-lit focal points as landmarks to help them find their way.
- Celebrate the distinctive identity and history of an area, for well-lit townscape details draw attention to the uniqueness of an area.
- Create a sense of intrigue and drama. Accentuate character and sense of place.
- Curate distinctive atmospheres and encourage particular uses.



1. Lighting illuminates buildings at night-time at Saddler's Yard, Manchester

2. Lighting on walls and floor surfaces creates safe spaces

3. Illuminated details, Chicago Riverwalk Expansion

4. Artistic interventions add colour and playful space, Saddler's Yard Manchester

Public Art and Heritage Interpretation

Through the regeneration of the Market Grounds, there is a need and opportunity to curate a positive image of place for Ashton Town Centre, celebrating cultural and heritage identity, accentuate local character and distinctiveness, and enliven the space with the use of public art and place branding.

Engagement with both artists and the community through the design process for public spaces is crucial to developing successful public art. There is an opportunity to build community cohesion and create a sense of community ownership.

Art and sculpture can help to develop a positive visual identity for Ashton, creating enriching experiences and sensory stimulation. Historical artworks, including sculptures, statues and other public art could help create a sense of arrival into the town centre at key urban nodes.

Exploration of neglected streets - such as Market Avenue and Clarendon Sixth Form College Walk - which suffer from low footfall and a poor pedestrian experience, should be encouraged through the use of public art.

Where suitable, it is proposed that the artwork incorporates lighting applications by either focusing lighting onto the pieces from adjacent lighting columns or integrating lighting into/around the artwork.

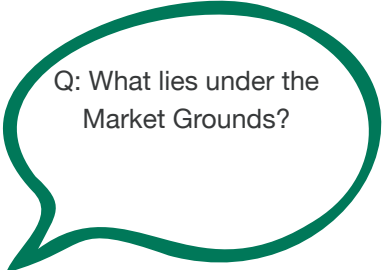
Overarching Concept: Mining the Market

Set in the foothills of the Pennines, Ashton-Under-Lyne has a distinctive geological story to tell. It is a story of dramatic forces shaping the local environment in the deep past of our planet. Here, rich seams of coal, laid down over 300 million years ago, stretch between beds of millstone grit and flag rock. Here too, preserved in peat bogs, lie the remains of the great forest of ash trees from which the town draws its name. In addition to which there are glacial deposits - boulders, gravel, fossilised plants and insects that bear witness to the last Ice Age.

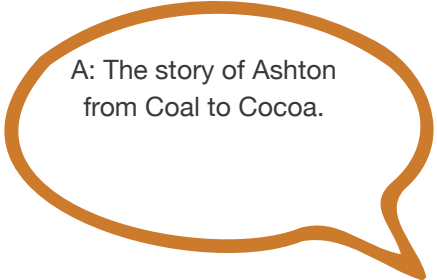
But there is also a human story to tell - a story centred on food and cultural interchange, which points to the long existence of a market on this site. This story begins with a Mesolithic settlement preserved in a peat bog and moves forward, through the various peoples who came to inhabit the area, right up to our own times. The Celts, the Romans, the Saxons, Vikings, Normans - all came to Ashton bringing different foods to grow, to trade, to smoke, to dry, to prepare in different ways. From Tudor times, the story becomes one of empire, of spices and exotic foodstuffs from around the world. Then comes the chapter on industrialisation and the development of packaged and processed food. More recently, we have the wartime chapter with its ration books and recipes for powdered egg. Remnants of it all lie only inches under the ground.

This connected story, of geological epochs moving into a timeline of human habitation, is one we can

tell through embedded artworks designed to suggest fossilised remains. Just as a rock is split open to reveal a fossil, Roman wheat, a Tudor potato or a Wartime tin of cocoa could all be shown emerging from sedimentary strata. This design concept could be expressed in several forms. There could be 2D elements set flush with the paving, created in terrazzo to look like fossils that have been cut and polished. There could be 3D objects, large enough to clamber on as incidental play features. There could also be elements integrated into the seating - either raised and carved, or else inlaid.



Q: What lies under the Market Grounds?



A: The story of Ashton from Coal to Cocoa.



Landmark public art and gateway features create a sense of arrival at Altrincham Town Centre



Sculptural street furniture inlaid with local stories



Ash tree references included in the proposed market kiosks and bespoke seating



The concept of breaking something open to reveal hidden stories



Heritage interpreted within paving - Voice of the City, Peterborough



Existing statues echoing Ashton's history restored and retained/relocated

Way-finding

Understanding users is key to implementing an effective way-finding strategy linking into the heart of Ashton, the Market Square and its surrounding streets and spaces along with the key assets of the town centre.

It is important that improvements create a legible environment and enhance way-finding for people walking, wheeling, cycling and driving. It is important to encourage walkability, and to inspire exploration of the Market Square and the wider Town Centre. Way-finding can play a significant role in making Ashton's assets feel accessible, reconnecting to the wider town and key movement nodes.

Way-finding should be curated through intuitive landscape, active building frontages, street furniture and features, landscape elements and materials, used to guide users through different areas of the space.

Consistent signage will guide people from arrival points and destinations. Good way-finding can encourage learning experiences; create a distinctive image for a place; and local pride by incorporating history or cultural details.



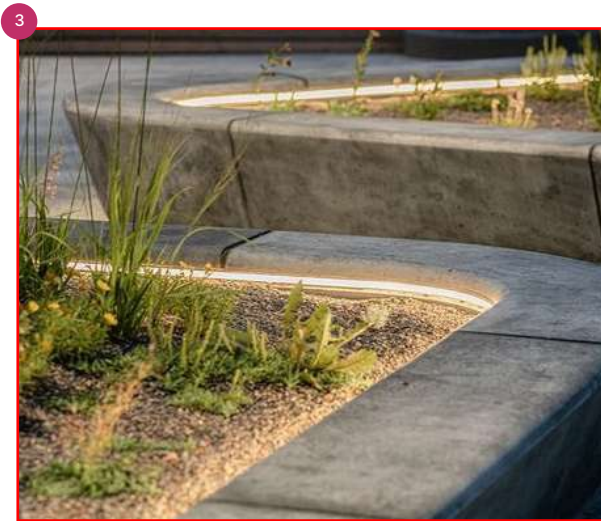
1. Way-finding and signage at Saddler's Yard, Manchester
2. Brand identity within way-finding at Cotton Field, Islington
3. Accessible Braille Navigation Charter Square, Sheffield
4. Map engraved into floor surface, The Strand, London.

Street Furniture

Street furniture will be functional and durable meeting safety requirements. Attractive street furniture will create a welcoming environment encouraging people to dwell for longer in the streets and spaces of Ashton town centre.

Cohesion will be created with high quality and accessible street furniture that is consistent with the branding and offers various arrangements for people with different levels of mobility. Street furniture will be designed for the long term, it will fit with the heritage character and avoid off the shelf standard products.

Street furniture will include bike parking and incorporate playful and interactive elements.



1. Cycle storage designed to be in keeping with the character, Altrincham
2. Seating and art could be combined with a playful element
3. Illuminated furniture and details, The Mall of Tripla, Fredikanterassi Square, Finland
- 4 Heritage interpretation incorporates public art and water to encourage play for children, Warrington

Next steps

This Phase 2 Document outlines the vision for the public realm strategy for Ashton town centre and its surrounding streets and spaces. The previous pages outline design proposals for these key streets and spaces and how they could look, supporting the ongoing regeneration of Ashton-under-Lyne.

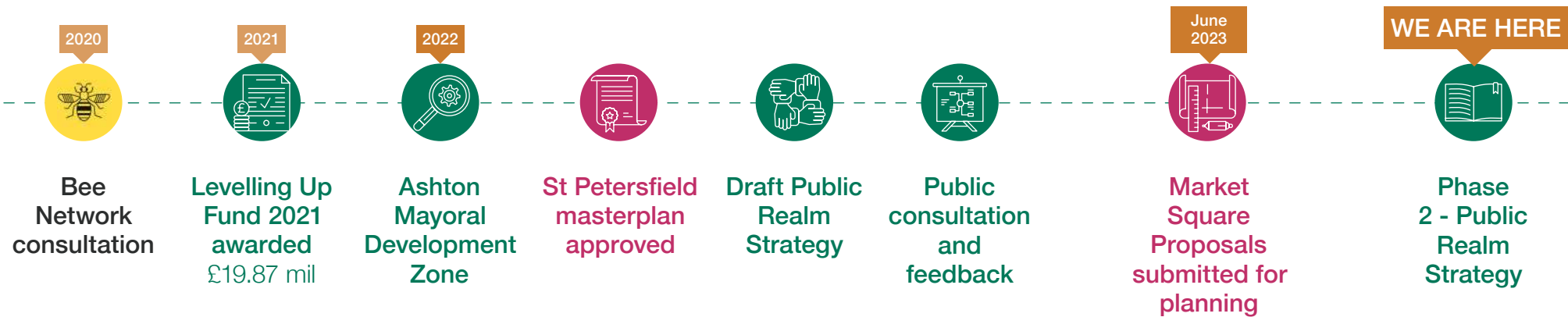
Further funding

Stamford Street and Old Street connect the Market Square and St. Petersfield, the wider public realm strategy for the town centre will be the basis for applying for funding for the wider streets such as Stamford Street and Old Street.

Next Steps

- Delivery of main Market Square works: November 2023 – March 2025
- Seek approval via Council's Executive Cabinet to adopt Phase 2 Public Realm Strategy – September 2023
- Seek funding opportunities to support the proposals for Ashton's streets and spaces

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Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	27 September 2023
Executive Member:	Councillor Jacqueline North, First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) Councillor David Sweeton, Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment
Reporting Officer:	Julian Jackson - Director of Place
Subject:	HOMES ENGLAND / GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY REVENUE FUNDING
Report Summary:	This report updates on the position with regard to external funding for projects at Droylsden Town Centre and Ashton Town Centre from Homes England via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and seeks approval to accept and spend the funding under the terms of the Grant Funding Agreements.
Recommendations:	That Executive Cabinet APPROVE: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) The acceptance of Grant Funding from GMCA for £0.100m at Droylsden Town Centre and £0.100m at Ashton Town Centre;(ii) Delegated authority to the Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) to enter into the Grant Funding Agreements (Appendix 1); and(iii) The Director of Place to manage the programme of works associated with the Grant Fund Agreements and to commission, drawdown and incur all expenditure related to delivery with ongoing performance and reporting provided to this Executive Cabinet, or other suitable forum, on a periodic basis.
Corporate Plan:	Key aims of the Corporate Plan are to provide opportunities for people to fulfil their potential through work, skills and enterprise and to ensure modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment that works for all generations and future generations. The programme of work funded by Evergreen III will support these aims in the areas of job creation, modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment.
Policy Implications:	The programme of work funded by this revenue funding from GMCA supports the policy aims of the Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy (2021), the Council's growth priorities agreed at Council February 2020 and the emerging draft Greater Manchester Places for Everyone joint development strategy.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	As part of the Council's strategic objectives, there was a need to develop a masterplan for various townships in the Borough. The development of masterplans are revenue in nature, and therefore a cost pressure to the General Fund, if not previously budgeted for. The Council does not currently have a dedicated budget for the masterplan development at Droylsden Town Centre nor does it have a budget for due diligence checks at the sites in Ashton.

GMCA have secured revenue funding from Homes England to support the development of pipeline projects for the delivery of the Greater Manchester growth ambitions. The Council has successfully applied for, and been awarded, £0.100m for Droylsden Town Centre and £0.100m for Ashton Town Centre.

The expectation is that all specified work can be completed within the agreed grant funding amount. There will be no additional funding requirement for the work specified and no adverse impact on the Place revenue budgets or General Fund. Both projects are intended to contribute to the future development of Ashton and Droylsden including enhanced commercial and residential development which should drive growth in Council Tax and Business Rates in the medium to long term.

The template grant funding agreement is attached as **Appendix 1**. Draft funding agreements for the specific grant awards are not yet available but it is expected that the agreements will require the funding to be spent by 31 March 2024 in line with bid submitted to GMCA. The funding bids to GMCA required a brief outline of the scope of the work to be undertaken, timelines for completion and the anticipated outputs. Acceptance of the grant and signing of the grant funding agreement will commit the Council to commission and deliver the specified work by 31 March 2024. Failure to deliver in accordance with the grant funding agreement will expose the council to financial risk through loss of grant funding.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the
Borough Solicitor)**

This report seeks authority to enter into two grant funding agreements, a draft of which is provided at **Appendix 1**.

It should be noted that it is important that the Outputs and Milestones agreed are to be achievable by the Council given that failure to achieve any Output or Milestone will allow Homes England to terminate the grant funding agreement and suspend or clawback any funding received.

Monitoring and progress reports and the provision of such information as is requested will need to be submitted to Homes England.

The grant funding agreement also contains provisions relating to legal obligations and statutory requirements that must be adhered to such as planning and environmental, health and safety, procurement, subsidy control and data protection legislation.

Risk Management:

Risks associated with the project are set out at Section 4.

Access to Information:

Not confidential

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Mike Reed, Head of Major Programmes



Telephone: 07974111756



e-mail: mike.reed@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2023, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) informed Tameside Council that it had been successful in securing revenue funding of £0.100m to support a masterplan for Droylsden Town Centre and £0.100m to support feasibility and delivery strategy work for Ashton Town Centre. All costs associated with these would otherwise have been a revenue pressure in the Place Directorate's budget.
- 1.2 This revenue funding has been secured via GMCA from the allocation of Homes England Revenue Department Expenditure Limit (RDEL) funding to support the development of the pipeline of projects for the delivery of the GM growth ambitions. This supports the closer working with Homes England, TfGM and other partners in aligning the development programmes and funding to deliver the objectives and opportunities secured through the GM Devolution Deal.
- 1.3 There is a requirement for this funding to be utilised by 31 March 2024.

2. SUPPORTED SCHEMES

Droylsden Town Centre

- 2.1 There is an identified need for a town centre masterplan in Droylsden that supports plans for a more vibrant town centre core and includes a movement and public realm strategy to support the creation of a sustainable, accessible and community service rich centre linked to public transport entry points and supports wider town centre development. It is recommended therefore that the revenue funding secured be used for the preparation of a Town Centre Masterplan for Droylsden. The proposed work will be entirely covered by the external funding secured and there will be no impact on Council's revenue budgets.
- 2.2 The Droylsden Shopping Centre and the Greenside Lane Retail Park are owned by New Era and these retail areas are in turn both intrinsically linked with the Council owned Concorde Suite building. The masterplan will help facilitate a long term sustainable solution to these town centre sites.
- 2.3 This final masterplan will identify a long term programme that enables Droylsden to more effectively serve its residential catchment area while capitalising on future growth. It will also ensure that the impact of the significant investment in recent years within Droylsden at the GM Pension Fund Head Office, Droylsden Library, Metrolink, Medlock Active, the former Jam Works site, and Fairfield Road site, and Droylsden Marina is maximised.
- 2.4 The whole Town Centre redevelopment is seen as a 15 to 20 year programme with short term, medium term and long-term goals that will holistically deal with the Town Centre and the surrounding area that feeds it.

Ashton Town Centre

- 2.5 The Council was successful with a bid to the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) of £19.870m for Ashton Town Centre in October 2021. The works funded via LUF are focused on:
 - Commencement of the restoration programme for Ashton Town Hall
 - Public realm improvements, with Market Square identified as a priority
 - Acquisition of the former interchange site and associated land remediation and enabling infrastructure works
- 2.6 The specific interventions being funded via the LUF have been prepared in the context of the emerging wider strategic vision for Ashton Town Centre. The Council has engaged with the owner of the Arcades Shopping Centre, Fairacre, and the asset manager for the Ladysmith

Shopping Centre, Ellandi, to better understand the potential for change at these sites and explore the scope for any redevelopment as part of wider aspirations to regenerate the Town Centre, whilst supporting the Council's priorities for growth. This wider redevelopment could incorporate adjoining land, including the former interchange site to be acquired by the Council. Previous public consultation undertaken in 2020 by both the Council and the Arcades and Ladysmith Shopping Centres indicates there is support from local residents for significant intervention to rejuvenate the Town Centre.

- 2.7 To understand in more detail the scope of the opportunity, the viability and feasibility challenges and identify a delivery strategy to progress, it is recommended that the revenue funding secured be used for the preparation of technical due diligence in relation to the Arcades and Ladysmith Shopping Centre sites. The proposed work will be entirely covered by the external funding secured and there will be no impact on Council's revenue budgets.
- 2.8 The potential interventions to redevelop the shopping centres would be an economic driver that delivers a genuine levelling up opportunity supporting national, GM and Tameside strategic policies. Contributions would accrue from the quality of housing, enhancing sustainable travel, and the regeneration of Ashton as a modern hub.

3. FUNDING

- 3.1 A signed Grant Funding Agreement (**Appendix 1**) is required for each project.
- 3.2 Funds will not be released to the Council in advance, but rather it is intended that an application for reclaiming funds that have been spent will be made with supporting evidence and the budgets will be managed/ monitored accordingly.
- 3.3 The funding longstop date is 31 March 2024. There is no match funding requirement.

4. RISKS

- 4.1 The main project risks associated with this specific programme of works have been identified in the table below.

Risk Area	Detail	RAG Rating	Mitigation	RAG Rating
Financial	The deadline for spend of the grants is not met - given the extensive nature of the projects, there is a risk that grant will not be spent in time.	Yellow	Apply adequate resource to the project to ensure programme adherence.	Green
Legal and Financial	Conditions attached to funding agreement may not be acceptable.	Yellow	TMBC legal department to sense check to ensure nothing has changed. If any amendments are found, Officers to liaise with GMCA to agree T&C's.	Green
Programme	Lack of resource capacity to undertake workstreams in line with expectations.	Red	Apply adequate resource to the project to ensure programme adherence. Seek additional support from GMCA partners.	Yellow

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Droylsden Town Centre and Ashton Town Centre are projects that support delivery of GM strategic priorities, the Tameside Corporate Plan and Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy.
- 5.2 The revenue funding secured via GMCA provides a significant financial contribution to these projects and provides a proactive and positive response to the delivery of investment and development in Tameside.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 As set out at the front of the report.

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Homes England – Grant Funding Agreement in relation to:

Directorate: Markets, Partners and Places

Project: [insert name and PCS details]

Dated [2023]

Parties:

(1) **Homes and Communities Agency (trading as Homes England)** of One Friargate, Coventry CV1 2GN (**Homes England**); and

(2) [] of [address] (the **Local Authority**).

1. Recitals

1.1 Homes England agrees to make the Funding available to the Local Authority on the terms of this Agreement

1.2 The Local Authority agrees to use the Funding to [].

2. General

2.1 Homes England agrees to provide the Funding subject to the terms of this Agreement including the terms specified in the Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding.

2.2 The Parties acknowledge that the provision of Funding is considered an intra-public transfer of funds and not Subsidy.

2.3 All definitions and principles of interpretation set out in the Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding specified in **Schedule 1** shall apply to this Agreement (including the schedules to this Agreement), and the schedules and the Appendices to this Agreement are incorporated into and form part of this Agreement.

2.4 The Local Authority acknowledges and agrees that Homes England's obligation to provide the Funding is subject to Homes England receiving any approvals Homes England may require (whether internally or from central Government) and on central Government making funds available to Homes England for the Funding.

2.5 The key principles of the proposed Funding for the Project are as follows:

Total Commitment	means up to [] pounds (£[])
Availability Period	From the Start Date up to and including 31 March 2023
Project	[]
Outputs and Milestones	See Schedule 2
Start Date	[]
End Date	means [insert the date by when Homes England expects any progress reports regarding the project to cease]

Project Completion Date	[]
Project Costs	means the consultancy fees / surveys or other "preparatory" costs incurred by the Local Authority for the purposes of the Project and which Homes England is satisfied have been reasonably and properly incurred by the Local Authority in carrying out the Project provided such costs have been verified and approved in writing by Homes England which without limitation and for the avoidance of doubt do not include any finance charges but does include any non-recoverable VAT and professional fees in connection with the design supervision and/or implementation of the Project.
Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding	means the standard terms and conditions of funding contained at Schedule 1.

3. Conditions Precedent to the initial Funding and each other Funding

3.1 Homes England's obligations under this Agreement to make available any Funding is subject to the conditions precedent more particularly specified in **Schedule 3**, each being met in a form and substance satisfactory to Homes England at the time:

- (a) when the Local Authority delivers a Claim Form to Homes England; and
- (b) when such Funding is to be made available to the Local Authority.

3.2 The conditions precedent required by Homes England pursuant to this Clause 3 are for the sole benefit of Homes England and may only be waived or otherwise deferred by Homes England in writing at its entire discretion.

3.3 Reporting

The Local Authority will provide Homes England with the Monitoring and Progress Report in accordance with paragraph 8 to the Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding.

3.4 Communications

The Local Authority contact for all enquiries at Homes England is [insert project manager name].

All notices given by the Local Authority to Homes England must be in writing and either be delivered at or sent by first class post to. Windsor House 50 Victoria Street London SW1H 0TL marked for the attention of: []

Any notice or other communications between us shall be accepted as having been received;

- (a) if sent by first-class post, three Business Days after posting exclusive of the day of posting; or
- (b) if delivered by hand, on the day of delivery.

And in the case of Homes England addressed as set out above and in the case of the Local Authority to []

Either party may change the details of service by notice in accordance with the above.

3.5 **Amendments to the Agreement**

Homes England may amend or vary the Agreement where either;

- (a) mandatory changes are required by UK laws or regulations; or
- (b) by mutual written consent between the Local Authority and Homes England.

4. TERMINATION

Homes England reserves the right to terminate this Agreement by notice in writing and / or to implement paragraphs 6 and/or 7 of the Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding with immediate effect where;

- (a) The Local Authority does not submit a Claim Form within 12 months of the Start Date or such other period agreed with Homes England in writing;
- (b) The Local Authority becomes Insolvent;
- (c) The Local Authority fails to achieve any Output or Milestone;
- (d) The Local Authority fails to remedy any breach of this Agreement which is capable of remedy within 14 Business Days of Homes England requesting the Local Authority to do so;
- (e) The Local Authority commits a breach of this Agreement which is incapable of remedy.

IN WITNESS whereof this document has been executed as a deed by the parties hereto but is not intended to have legal effect until it has been unconditionally delivered and dated

The common seal of)
HOMES AND COMMUNITIES AGENCY)
 is hereunto affixed in the presence of:)

.....
 Name:
 Authorised Signatory

The common seal of)
[LOCAL AUTHORITY])
 is hereunto affixed in the presence of:)

.....
 Name:
 Authorised Signatory

SCHEDULE 1

STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

1. DEFINITIONS

In these Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding the following words and expressions have the following meanings:

Agreement means this agreement, the attached schedules and annexes pursuant to which Homes England makes Funding available to the Local Authority from time to time and incorporating these Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding;

Availability Period means as defined in paragraph 2.5 to this Agreement;

Business Day means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or statutory bank holiday in England;

Claim means an application for Funding;

Claim Form means the document in the form of the template annexed as Appendix 1 to be completed and provided by the Local Authority to the nominated Homes England contact at agreed intervals to claim Funding;

Data Protection Legislation and DPL means (i) Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (created by the Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (EU Exit) Regulations) (ii) any successor legislation to the GDPR or the DPA and (iii) all applicable law relating to the processing of personal data and privacy;

Procurement Law means the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Concession Contracts Regulations 2016 (insofar as the same are applicable) together with any statutory modification or replacement regulations or legislation on procurement by public bodies;

Funding means funding made or to be made under this Agreement or the principal amount of each advance of funding made by Homes England under this Agreement or the aggregate amount of all advances of funding which have been made by Homes England as a financial contribution towards the Project;

Health and Safety Legislation means any applicable health and safety legislation, statutory instruments or regulations (including but not limited to the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974) and any guidance and/or codes of practice relating to them;

Insolvency means a report under Section 114(3) or Section 114A of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 or Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 or a direction by the Secretary of State under Section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999.

Local Authority Senior Officer means the employee of the Local Authority holding the title of 'Section 151 Officer' or any such other person with equivalent seniority notified to Homes England by the Local Authority;

Milestones means the key events and stages as agreed between the Local Authority and Homes England in relation to the Project as detailed in Schedule 2.

Milestone Date means the date set out in the definition of Milestones by which the relevant Milestone must have been achieved;

Monitoring and Progress Report means a report prepared by the Local Authority and submitted to Homes England, the means of submission and the location of the form being as notified by Homes England to the Local Authority from time to time in writing;

Outputs means the specific targets and objectives agreed between the Local Authority and Homes England as detailed in Schedule 2.

Project means the project to which the Funding relates, details of which are set out in paragraph 2.5 to this Agreement;

Project Completion Date means the date by which the work on the Project is to be completed as defined in paragraph 2.5 to this Agreement;

Quarter Date means each of 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December;

Regulatory Body means any UK Government department or agency or any other regulatory body having jurisdiction whether regional, national or local and including, but not limited to, the Department for Communities and Local Government, UK central Government or any successor such department, agency or regulatory body which, whether under statute, rules, regulations, codes of practice or otherwise, is entitled to regulate, investigate, or influence the matters dealt with in this Agreement or any other affairs of Homes England;

Start Date means the date by which the work on the Project is to be started as defined in paragraph 2.5 to this Agreement;

Subsidy means as defined in section 2 of the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

Subsidy Control Act 2022 means the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and/or such other legislation and/or regulations and/or guidance issued by the Secretary of State and/or approved by Parliament which is in force and/or applies in England which regulates Subsidy

Total Commitment means as defined in paragraph 2.5 to this Agreement;

2. PROVISION OF FUNDING

Homes England (in exercise of its powers under s19 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008) agrees to make available to the Local Authority during the Availability Period the Funding in an aggregate principal amount equal to the Total Commitment.

3. PRE-CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

Homes England's obligations under this Agreement are subject to it having received all documents and other evidence detailed in **Schedule 3** each in form and substance to the satisfaction of Homes England.

4. WARRANTIES AND REPRESENTATIONS

4.1 By entering into this Agreement (and every time the Local Authority submits a Claim Form) the Local Authority warrants and confirms to Homes England that;

- 4.1.1 it is a legally constituted body and has the full capacity and authority and all necessary consents (except planning consents) to enter into and perform the obligations under this Agreement; and
- 4.1.2 it acknowledges that it constitutes valid, legal and binding obligations of and on the Local Authority which are enforceable against it;
- 4.1.3 all information, documents and accounts provided by the Local Authority or on its behalf, from time to time are and will be true, valid and correct; (minor errors and omissions as determined by Homes England in its absolute discretion excepted)
- 4.1.4 it is not in breach of any law or regulation agreement or obligation which affects or may affect its ability to commit to this Agreement;
- 4.1.5 it is not under any statutory obligation to carry out the Project or any part of it;
- 4.1.6 it is not to the best of its knowledge aware of any fact or circumstance that may affect the successful completion of the Project;
- 4.1.7 it will ensure that all the necessary consents and licences are in place and maintained for the duration of the Project without limitation.
- 4.1.8 it will comply with Procurement Law (to the extent that the same apply).
- 4.1.9 it will procure that all contractors comply with Procurement Law (to the extent that the same apply);
- 4.1.10 it will procure that the Project commences by the Start Date and will be completed in accordance with the terms of this Agreement

5. PAYMENT OF FUNDING

5.1 Mechanics and payment of Funding

5.1.1 A Claim will not be regarded as having been validly made by the Local Authority unless:

- (a) it is submitted on a Claim Form which must be signed by the Local Authority Senior Officer and it is:
 - i received by Homes England no later than twenty (20) Business Days prior to the proposed date the Funding will be made available to the Local Authority;
 - ii delivered during the Availability Period; and
- (b) it relates to Project Costs relating to the Project and for which the Local Authority has not submitted any other Claim or received any other funding and it is accompanied by written evidence satisfactory to Homes England that the Project Costs have been incurred together with confirmation from the Local Authority Senior Officer that it has verified and approved the Claim;

- (c) it accords with the Project Costs and each Milestone is met by the relevant Milestone Date or is accompanied by evidence satisfactory to Homes England (in its absolute discretion) to justify any deviation; and
- (d) it is for an amount which (if paid) would not cause the Total Commitment to be exceeded.

5.1.2 Subject to the terms of this Agreement, Homes England will pay Funding to the Local Authority within twelve (12) Business Days of receipt of a valid Claim.

5.1.3 Any amount not drawn by the Local Authority under this Agreement during the Availability Period will be automatically cancelled.

5.2 Use of Funding

5.2.1 The Funding will be the sole property of the Local Authority and will be used by the Local Authority for Project Costs only in line with the Milestones and the Project Costs profile detailed in Schedule 2.

5.2.2 Without affecting the obligations of the Local Authority in any way, Homes England is not bound to monitor or verify the application of any amount provided pursuant to this Agreement.

6. DEFAULT

6.1 In the event that Homes England in its sole and absolute discretion determines that an event of default has occurred in respect of the events listed at paragraph 6.2 (**Event of Default**) Homes England has the right to serve notice of the Event of Default on the Local Authority.

6.2 An Event of Default arises where any of the following occurs :-

- 6.2.1 any representation or warranty made by the Local Authority pursuant to paragraph 4 is materially incorrect when made or repeated;
- 6.2.2 the Local Authority fails to achieve any Output or Milestone
- 6.2.3 the Local Authority commits a breach of any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement and/or any other agreement the Local Authority has with Homes England (and fails to remedy such breach within 14 Business Days of Homes England asking it to do so);
- 6.2.4 the Local Authority does not comply with paragraph 8;
- 6.2.5 any of the pre-conditions detailed in Schedule 3 (if applicable for the purposes of this Agreement) are not satisfied (unless waived by Homes England) within the required period;
- 6.2.6 assets resulting from the Funding and/or the Project are put to a use not authorised by this Agreement; and/or
- 6.2.7 an Insolvency event occurs.

6.3 Homes England's rights

Where an Event of Default has occurred Homes England in its absolute discretion may by notice to the Local Authority:

6.3.1 consider and agree a revised Output or Milestone Date with the Local Authority in which case any relevant condition of this Agreement shall apply mutatis mutandis to the revised Output or Milestone Date; or

- 6.3.2 Where the Event of Default is capable of remedy require the Local Authority to prepare a plan to remedy and/or mitigate the effects of the Event of Default and submit the remediation plan to Homes England within fifteen (15) Business Days of such request for approval. If the remediation plan is not so prepared or complied with or if the remediation plan is not acceptable to Homes England then and in any such case Homes England may exercise its rights set out in paragraphs 6.3.3 or 6.3.4 below; or
- 6.3.3 Withhold the provision of further Funding and/ or
- 6.3.4 Require the Local Authority to repay to Homes England the Funding or such proportion of the Funding as Homes England in its absolute discretion determines should be repaid. Any such recovery to be paid within three (3) Business Days of Homes England's demand.
- 6.3.5 In the event that the Local Authority certifies to Homes England in writing (with such supporting evidence as requested by Homes England) that (a) having used its best endeavours and efforts to do so, it is unable to meet the Outputs or Milestones and (b) such inability to meet the Outputs or Milestones results wholly and exclusively from a downturn in the housing market for the area in question and is therefore i) not specific to the area in relation to the Project and ii) beyond the control of the Local Authority, then Homes England may (but shall not be obliged to) take this into account when exercising its discretion and considering what action to take in respect of an Event of Default, including any decision about whether to agree revised proposals for Outputs or Milestones as set out in paragraph 6.3.1 above.
- 6.4 **Suspension**
On and at any time after the occurrence of an Event of Default which is continuing Homes England may by notice to the Local Authority suspend or withhold payment of Funding.

7. WITHHOLDING PAYMENTS AND REPAYMENT

- Homes England may vary or withhold any or all of the payments of Funding under this Agreement and/or require repayment of any or all Funding already paid to the extent that:-
- 7.1 repayment or recovery is required under or by virtue of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and/or
- 7.2 Homes England is otherwise required to repay or recover such Funding in whole or in part by
- 7.2.1 such persons officeholders and bodies (however constituted) that are specified under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 as having responsibility for monitoring compliance with and/or legally enforcing Subsidy ; or
- 7.2.2 the courts of England and Wales;
- 7.3 Any Funding required to be repaid in accordance with this Clause 7 will bear interest at such rate as required under or by virtue of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 from the date of Homes England's notice requiring repayment to the date of repayment (both before and after judgement) or such other period as may be required under or by virtue of the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

8. LOCAL AUTHORITY NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

8.1 Reporting

The Local Authority will:-

- 8.1.1 From the Start Date until the End Date, and no later than ten (10) Business Days following each Quarter Date provide Homes England with such information within the Monitoring and Progress Report as Homes England may reasonably require in connection with the Project (including without limitation evidence that a Claim relates to Project Costs) and the Outputs and Milestones, save that the first Monitoring and Progress Report shall be the period commencing on the Start Date and ending on the next Quarter Date;
- 8.1.2 Notwithstanding paragraph 8.1.1, provide Homes England with more frequent Monitoring and Progress Reports should it be requested to do so by Homes England (at its absolute discretion); and
- 8.1.3 procure that the Local Authority's representative and/or any other officers appointed by the Local Authority to deal with the Project will attend such meetings as Homes England may reasonably request to review progress in relation to the Project;

8.2 Inspection and Audit Facilities

The Local Authority will:

- 8.2.1 allow or procure access to its premises for Homes England, its internal auditors or its other duly authorised staff or agents or any Regulatory Body and will allow such persons to inspect and take copies of documents relating to the Project. Homes England will be entitled to interview the Local Authority's employees to obtain oral and/or written explanations of documents.
- 8.2.2 provide Homes England, in writing, with any such information about the Funding and/or the Project and/or the Programme as it requires for the conduct of its statutory functions or which may be required by any Regulatory Body in respect of its regulatory and / or compliance functions.
- 8.2.3 allow Homes England or persons authorised by it to inspect, audit and take copies of all reports, books, accounting records and vouchers which relate to the Funding and the Project provided that Homes England does not impede or obstruct the progress of the Project.
- 8.2.4 at all times retain documentary evidence to support each Claim and will maintain full and accurate accounts for the Project in accordance with all applicable law and accounting standards and (to the extent that no accounting standard is applicable) use generally accepted accounting principles and practices of the United Kingdom then in force. For the purpose of this paragraph "Accounting Standards" means the statements of standard accounting practice referred to in section 464 of the Companies Act 2006 issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

9. CONDUCT

- 9.1 The Local Authority must comply with and assist and cooperate with Homes England in order that it can comply with (and require third parties who benefit from this Funding and any appointed contractors do the same) all applicable legal obligations and statutory requirements in relation to the Project, including, but not limited to:-
- 9.1.1 UK Planning and Environmental legislation
 - 9.1.2 Subsidy Control Act 2022, including but not limited to N7471A/99 and N747/8/99 Partnership Support for Regeneration (1) Support for Speculative Developments and (2) Support for Bespoke Developments
 - 9.1.3 Health and Safety Legislation
 - 9.1.4 Employment legislation
 - 9.1.5 CDM Regulations
 - 9.1.6 Equal opportunities (in relation to race, sex, disability, faith and sexuality)
 - 9.1.7 Financial regulations and legislation
 - 9.1.8 Copyright and Data Protection legislation
- 9.2 In carrying out the Project the Local Authority must not act directly or indirectly in any way that will bring Homes England into disrepute.
- 9.3 The Local Authority must inform Homes England immediately if any of its officers involved with the Project are subject to investigation or challenge which may have a detrimental effect upon Homes England and/or the Project.
- 9.4 The Local Authority must advise Homes England immediately of any threat of or any notice or any resolution in respect of any Insolvency.
- 9.5 The Local Authority will act in good faith to achieve the Outputs and will provide evidence of this to Homes England as required by Homes England.
- 9.6 The Local Authority will provide Homes England with such evidence that it requires that Project Costs has been incurred.

10. INSURANCE

- 10.1 The Local Authority must take out and maintain with a reputable insurance company adequate insurance of the type and level of cover which it is reasonable to expect for the Project.
- 10.2 The Local Authority must produce a schedule of all appropriate insurance cover and copies of all relevant cover notes and insurance policies to Homes England within 10 Business Days of any such request being made by Homes England.

11. CONFIDENTIALITY, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, DATA PROTECTION, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY

11.1 Definitions

In this paragraph the following words and expressions have the following meanings:

Confidential Information means any and all information whether disclosed or otherwise made available by one party to another (or otherwise obtained or received by a party) whether before or after the date of this Agreement including but not limited to:-

- (a) know-how, confidential, commercial and financial information and all other information which should reasonably be treated as confidential (whether marked confidential or otherwise);
 - (b) the existence or terms of this Agreement or other information relating to the Project; and
 - (c) information relating to a party's business and affairs, its customers, employees and suppliers;
- in whatever form in each case (including but not limited to information given orally or in writing or in any document electronic file or machine readable form or other means of recording or representing information whatsoever) and including any information (in whatever form) derived from such information

EIR means the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, and any subordinate legislation made under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 from time to time together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner in relation to such legislation;

EIR Exception means any applicable exemption to EIR;

Exempted Information means any Information that is designated as falling or potentially falling within the FOIA Exemptions or the EIR Exceptions;

FOIA means the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and any subordinate legislation made under this Act from time to time together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner in relation to such legislation;

FOIA Authority/Authorities means a public authority as defined by FOIA and/or EIR;

FOIA Exemption means any applicable exemption to the FOIA;

Information means in relation to:

- (a) FOIA the meaning given under section 84 of the FOIA and which is held by Homes England at the time of receipt of an RFI; and
- (b) EIR the meaning given under the definition of "environmental information" in section 2 of the EIR and which is held by Homes England at the time of receipt of an RFI;

Information Commissioner has the meaning set out in the Data Protection Legislation.

Intellectual Property includes, without limit, all copyright (and future copyright), patents, trademarks and service marks (whether registered or not) design rights, registered designs, database rights, moral rights and know-how together with the right to register, protect, enforce and exploit the above anywhere in the world.

Request for Information/RFI shall have the meaning set out in the FOIA or any request for information under EIR which may relate to

the Project, any agreement or any activities or business of Homes England.

11.2 Confidentiality

11.2.1 Each party recognises that under this Agreement it may receive Confidential Information belonging to the other.

11.2.2 Each party agrees to treat all Confidential Information belonging to the other as confidential and not to disclose such Confidential Information or any other confidential information relating to Homes England arising or coming to its attention during the currency of this Agreement to any third party without the prior written consent of the other party and agrees not to use such Confidential Information for any purpose other than that for which it is supplied under this Agreement.

11.2.3 The obligations of confidence referred to in paragraph 11.2.2 above will not apply to any Confidential Information which:

- (a) is in, or which comes into, the public domain otherwise than by reason of a breach of this Agreement or of any other duty of confidentiality relating to that information; or
- (b) is obtained from a third party without that third party being under an obligation (express or implied) to keep the information confidential; or
- (c) is lawfully in the possession of the other party before the date of this Agreement and in respect of which that party is not under an existing obligation of confidentiality; or
- (d) is independently developed without access to the Confidential Information of the other party.

11.2.4 Each party will be permitted to disclose Confidential Information to the extent that it is required to do so:

- (a) to enable the disclosing party to perform its obligations under this Agreement; or
- (b) by any applicable law or by a court, arbitral or administrative tribunal in the course of proceedings before it including without limitation any requirement for disclosure under the FOIA and the EIR and each obligor acknowledges that any lists or schedules provided by it outlining Confidential Information are of indicative value only and Homes England may nevertheless be obliged to disclose such Confidential Information; or
- (c) by any regulatory body (including any investment exchange) acting in the course of proceedings before it or acting in the course of its duties; or
- (d) in order to give proper instructions to any professional adviser of that party who also has an obligation to keep any such Confidential Information confidential.

11.2.5 The Local Authority will ensure that all Confidential Information obtained from Homes England under or in connection with this Agreement:

- (a) is given only to such of its employees, professional advisors, Contractors or consultants engaged to advise it in connection with this Agreement as is

strictly necessary for the performance of this Agreement and only to the extent necessary for the performance of this Agreement;

- (b) is treated as confidential and not disclosed (without Homes England's prior written approval) or used by any such staff or professional advisors, Contractors or consultants otherwise than for the purposes of this Agreement;
- (c) where it is considered necessary in the opinion of Homes England the Local Authority will ensure that such staff, professional advisors, contractors or consultants sign a confidentiality undertaking before commencing work in connection with this Agreement.

11.2.6 Nothing in this paragraph 11.2 shall prevent Homes England:

- (a) disclosing any Confidential Information for the purpose of:
 - i the examination and certification of Homes England's accounts; or
 - ii any examination pursuant to section 6(1) of the National Audit Act 1983 of the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which Homes England has used its resources; or
- (b) disclosing any Confidential Information obtained from an Obligor:
 - i to any other department, office or agency of the Crown; or
 - ii to any person engaged in providing any services to Homes England for any purpose relating to or ancillary to this Agreement or any person conducting an Office of Government Commerce gateway review;
- (c) provided that in disclosing information under paragraphs 11.2.6(b) above Homes England discloses only the information which is necessary for the purpose concerned and requires that the information is treated in confidence and that a confidentiality undertaking is given where appropriate.

11.2.7 Nothing in this paragraph 11.2 shall prevent a party from using any techniques, ideas or know-how gained during the performance of this Agreement in the course of its normal business, to the extent that this does not result in a disclosure of Confidential Information or an infringement of Intellectual Property rights.

11.3 Freedom of information

11.3.1 The Local Authority acknowledges that Homes England is subject to legal duties which may require the release of information under the FOIA and/or the EIR and that Homes England may be under an obligation to provide Information subject to a Request for Information.

11.3.2 Homes England shall be responsible for determining in its absolute discretion whether:

- (a) any Information is Exempted Information or remains Exempted Information; or
- (b) any Information is to be disclosed in response to a Request for Information.

11.3.3 Subject to paragraph 11.3.4 below, the Local Authority acknowledges that Homes England may be obliged under the FOIA or the EIR to disclose Information:

- (a) without consulting the Local Authority; or
- (b) following consultation with the Local Authority and having taken (or not taken, as the case may be) its views into account.

11.3.4 Without in any way limiting paragraph 11.3.2 above, in the event that Homes England receives a Request for Information, Homes England will, where appropriate, as soon as reasonably practicable notify the Local Authority .

11.3.5 The Local Authority will assist and co-operate with Homes England as requested by Homes England to enable Homes England to comply with its disclosure obligations under the FOIA and the EIR within the prescribed periods for compliance and in particular without limitation will (and shall procure that its agents, contractors and sub-contractors will), at their own cost: provide all such assistance as may be required from time to time by Homes England and supply such data or information as may be requested by Homes England; and

11.3.6 Nothing in this Agreement will prevent Homes England from complying with any valid order, decision, enforcement or practice recommendation notice issued to it by the Information Commissioner under the FOIA and / or the EIR in relation to any Exempted Information.

11.3.7 To the extent that the Local Authority becomes a FOIA Authority subject to the FOIA and the EIR during the course of this Agreement this paragraph will apply mutatis mutandis to both parties.

11.3.8 The obligations in this paragraph 11.3 will survive the expiry or termination of this Agreement for a period of two (2) years or, in respect of any particular item of Confidential Information, until such earlier time as that item of Confidential Information reaches the public domain otherwise than by reason of a breach of this Agreement or of any other duty of confidentiality relating to that information.

11.3.9 Publication of information before Parliament

The Local Authority acknowledges that the National Audit Office has the right to publish details of this Agreement in its relevant reports to Parliament.

11.4 Data Protection

For the purposes of this paragraph, "Personal Data" and "Process" shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Data Protection Legislation (DPL).

11.4.1 Cooperation

The parties will co-operate with one another in order to enable each party to fulfil its statutory obligations under the DPL.

11.4.2 Registrations, notifications and consents

The Local Authority warrants and represents that it has obtained all and any necessary registrations, notifications and consents required by the DPL to process personal data for the purposes of performing its obligations under this Agreement. The Local Authority undertakes at all times during the term of this Agreement to comply with the DPL (and the data protection principles contained therein) in

processing all Personal Data in connection with this Agreement and shall not perform its obligations under this Agreement in such a way as to cause Homes England to breach any of its applicable obligations under the DPL.

11.5 Intellectual Property Rights

11.5.1 Homes England is entitled to make publicly available best practice arising from the Project ("Project Know-how") and (subject to Clause 11.5.2) the Local Authority hereby grants to Homes England a licence to use such Project Know-how in accordance with this Clause. Homes England will have the right to amend the Project Know-how or to combine with any other know how as it thinks fit when compiling and publishing what it regards as best practice.

11.5.2 If the intellectual property rights in Project Know-how are owned by a third party, the Local Authority will use its reasonable endeavours to obtain a licence for Homes England to use such Project Know-how in accordance with this Clause. The Local Authority will notify Homes England where the Local Authority are unable to obtain such licence and will identify which parts of the Project Know-how Homes England is not licensed to use.

11.5.3 Subject to Clause 11.5.2 the Local Authority will provide Homes England with complete copies of and access to all information and know-how relating to or derived from the Project (including the methods by which the Project was conducted). The Local Authority will provide all assistance and explanation requested by Homes England to enable it to disseminate best practice.

12. INDEMNITY

The Local Authority will be liable for and will indemnify Homes England in full for any expense, liability, loss, claim or proceedings arising under statute, tort (including negligence), contract and/or at common law in respect of personal injury to or death of any person or loss of or damage to property (whether belonging to Homes England or otherwise) or any claim by any third party arising directly or indirectly out of or caused or contributed to by the Project and/or the performance or non-performance or delay in performance by the Local Authority of its obligations under this Agreement except to the extent that the same is due to any act or neglect of Homes England.

13. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

13.1 The Local Authority is required to provide Homes England, in writing, any such information about the Funding as it requires for the conduct of its statutory functions or which may be required by any Regulatory Body in respect of its regulatory and / or compliance functions.

13.2 The Local Authority is required to record for Homes England any such information as may be required to monitor and evaluate the performance of this Agreement. The Local Authority is required to retain this information for access by Homes England or any Regulatory Body for a minimum period of 10 years from the Project Completion Date.

13.3 The Local Authority is required to provide to Homes England, at reasonable request, access to all and any information about the Project including the location(s) at which the Project will be/ has delivered, Outputs and / or beneficiaries of the Funding from the Start Date up to and including the End Date.

14. TRANSFER

The offer of Funding is personal to the Local Authority. Unless otherwise specifically agreed in writing by Homes England the Local Authority may not assign, novate, transfer, sub-contract or dispose of in any other way either the benefit of the Funding or any of its obligations under this Agreement.

15. VAT

The Local Authority and Homes England both understand and agree that the Funding by Homes England under this Agreement is not consideration for any supply for Value Added Tax ("VAT") purposes whether by the Local Authority or otherwise. If, notwithstanding this agreement and understanding of the Local Authority and Homes England, it is determined that the Funding is consideration for a supply for VAT purposes, the Funding shall be treated as inclusive of any VAT.

16. CHANGES

The Local Authority must advise Homes England immediately if the Local Authority want or require to make any changes to the Project including, but not limited to, changes to any of the Outputs, Milestones, Start Date, End Date, Project Completion Date, Project costs and/or funding of the Project. Any changes must be agreed, in writing, with Homes England before taking effect.

17. PUBLICITY

- 17.1 The Local Authority will ensure that, where appropriate, publicity is given to the Project by drawing attention to the benefits and opportunities afforded by it. In acknowledging the contribution and investment made by Homes England the Local Authority must comply with any guidance on publicity provided by or on behalf of Homes England from time to time.
- 17.2 The Local Authority must not publicise or promote the Funding without Homes England's prior written agreement.
- 17.3 Any reference to Homes England or the Funding in any publicity and / or promotional material relating to the Project must be approved, in advance and in writing, by Homes England.
- 17.4 Homes England reserves the right to use all data provided by the Local Authority in relation to the Funding for publicity or promotional purposes.

18. FEES AND EXPENSES- VARIATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT COSTS

- 18.1 The Local Authority shall within three (3) Business Days of demand on demand, pay to Homes England the amount of all costs and expenses (including legal fees and irrecoverable VAT relating thereto) incurred by it:
- 18.1.1 in connection with the variation or amendment of, or enforcement or preservation of any rights under, this Agreement; or
- 18.1.2 in investigating any Event of Default which has occurred.

19. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties relating to its subject matter and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations and undertakings whenever occurring.

20. FURTHER ASSURANCE

On the written request of Homes England, the Local Authority will promptly execute and deliver or procure the execution and delivery of any further documents necessary to obtain for Homes England the full benefit of this Agreement.

21. APPLICABLE LAW

This Agreement is governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law and subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales. If any provision of this Agreement is found to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction such provision shall be severed from it and the remainder of the provisions of this Agreement shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.

SCHEDULE 2

PERFORMANCE DATA AND FINANCIAL PROFILING

1. MILESTONES

MILESTONE	MILESTONE DATE
Start Date	As defined in clause 2.5 to this Agreement
Project Completion Date	As defined in clause 2.5 to this Agreement.

2. OUTPUTS

OUTPUT	Measure

3. ESTIMATED PROFILE OF FUNDING EXPENDITURE

Expenditure type	Estimated Costs (£)	Estimated expenditure date

SCHEDULE 3

PRE-CONDITIONS¹

1. Homes England will not advance any Funding under this Agreement (even where a Claim Form has been submitted) unless:-
 - 1.1 Homes England is satisfied that the Local Authority are not in breach of this Agreement; and
 - 1.2 The Local Authority has provided satisfactory evidence to Homes England where requested that the Local Authority will comply with the Local Authority representations and warranties set out in Clause 4 of the Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding; and
 - 1.3 Homes England is satisfied (acting reasonably) that contractors have or will be appointed with sufficient capability, experience and funding to deliver the Project by the Project Completion Date;
 - 1.4 [insert any other conditions precedent].
 - 1.5 The Local Authority has complied with Milestones numbered [] in Schedule 2 hereto.
2. Homes England may agree to pay Funding to the Local Authority before the above pre-conditions have been met without prejudice to its rights to refuse to pay any further Funding until those conditions are met.

¹ Set out here any pre-conditions to be fulfilled by the Applicant prior to Home England advancing any Funding. Further pre-conditions will be more likely on larger projects / projects where HCA funding is one of a number of elements. Consider the funding applicant's obligations under other agreements e.g. land transfer arrangements and Section 106 agreements (property projects), licences and consents needed in place and Project finance required.

APPENDIX 1

Claim Form

Markets, Partners and Places Grant

To: Homes England

From: *[insert full name and address of Local Authority before Agreement is executed]*

Date: []

Funding Agreement dated *[insert date]* relating to *[insert description of the project]* (the Funding Agreement)

1 I refer to the Funding Agreement. This is a Claim Form. Terms defined in the Funding Agreement have the same meaning in this Claim Form.

2 I wish to claim the following amount of Funding:

3.1 Funding amount for Project Costs: []

3.2 Period of Claim: From *[insert start date]* to *[insert end date]*

3.3 Date of claim: []

3.

3.1 Bank name: *[Complete before Agreement is executed]*

3.2 Bank branch/address: *[Complete before Agreement is executed]*

3.3 Bank sort code: *[Complete before Agreement is executed]*

3.4 Bank account number: *[Complete before Agreement is executed]*

3.5 Bank account name: *[Complete before Agreement is executed]*

4. Additional Information

4.1 Total Commitment *[Complete before Agreement is executed]*

4.2 Total Project Costs claimed and approved []
to date (excluding this claim):

4.3 Total Project Costs claimed and approved []
to date (including this claim):

5. The Claim is made in accordance with the Funding Agreement.

6. I confirm that each condition specified in Schedule 3 of the Funding Agreement and paragraph 5.1 of the Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding required to be satisfied on the date of this Claim Form is so satisfied and I know of no reason why any condition specified in Schedule 3 of

the Funding Agreement and paragraph 5.1 of the Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding to be satisfied on or before the date of drawdown will not be so satisfied.

7. I confirm compliance with each representation, warranty and covenant specified in the Funding Agreement.
8. I confirm that no Event of Default has occurred and is continuing or will occur as a result of the proposed draw down.
9. I confirm that the Funding to be provided pursuant to this Claim Form is in respect of Project Costs and will be used to meet the Project Costs and that no other Claim has been made in respect of such costs and that supporting invoices submitted with this Claim provide evidence of the relevant expenditure incurred to date.
10. I confirm that:
 - 10.1 The Project Costs have been incurred and constitute revenue expenditure.
 - 10.2 We have not received and will not receive any specific grants, other support or contributions towards the expenditure for which payment is now being sought.
 - 10.3 The information in this form is true and correct.

By:

Section 151 Officer
for and on behalf of
[insert full name of Local Authority]

Name (Printed):

Position:

Dated:

-----**For Completion by Homes England Only**-----

Department	Markets, Partners, and Places		
TMS Ref			
Supplier Ref			
Cost Centre	AQAFB	Activity	
Account No	1555	Job Code	
Total Net Value	£	VAT Code	
Total VAT	£	Total for Payment	£

Completed By (Print Name)		Delegated Authority (Print name)	
Completed by (Signature)		Delegated Authority (Signature)	
Completed by Date		Delegated Authority Date	

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	27 September 2023
Executive Member:	Cllr Jan Jackson - Executive Member Planning, Transport & Connectivity
Reporting Officer:	Julian Jackson - Director of Place
Subject:	PLACES FOR EVERYONE MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION
Report Summary:	To update members on the progress of Places for Everyone Plan: A Joint Development Plan Document for 9 Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Places for Everyone Plan) and to seek approval to consult upon proposed modifications to the plan.
Recommendations:	<p>Executive Cabinet are recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Note progress made in respect of the Places for Everyone Plan;ii) Agree that the Places for Everyone modifications (main, additional and those relating to the policies map) and associated supporting background documents be subject to a period of representations for a period of 8 weeks commencing no earlier than 9 October 2023; andiii) Agree the next steps for the production of the Places for Everyone Plan (section 12).
Corporate Plan:	Places for Everyone's vision is to support the achievement of the vision set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy and deliver sustainable inclusive growth across the nine boroughs. In doing so it seeks to make this one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old, strategically complementing and assisting in the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan themes of starting well, living well and ageing well.
Policy Implications:	<p>Places for Everyone is a joint Development Plan Document for nine boroughs, which has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Upon adoption, Places for Everyone will provide a policy framework to guide investment and development decisions and be material in the determination of planning applications.</p> <p>Places for Everyone is a statutory plan, which seeks to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, delivering economic, social and environmental benefits together in a mutually reinforcing way. It is informed by an Integrated Assessment, which includes Impact Assessments for both Equalities and Health and a Habitats Regulations Assessment, undertaken in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).</p>
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)	The development of the joint Places for Everyone Plan, and subsequently Homes, Spaces, Places, is funded by a combination of revenue budget and monies earmarked in reserve as shown in the table below. This includes all costs associated with the

necessary consultation on the modifications to the Places for Everyone Plan.

	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Held in Reserves						0.132
Revenue Budget	0.176	0.209	0.234	0.234	0.234	1.087
Total						1.219

This joint development plan provides a policy framework for individual Local Authority Plans and, as part of it, includes a commitment to develop new housing within the borough. The required growth in housing will have costs, in terms of infrastructure and service delivery, but will also generate additional revenues from Council Tax. The profile of growth in Council Tax will be dependent on delivery across the 15 years from adoption.

One of the modifications from the Inspectors is to change the period the Plan covers from 2020-2037 to 2022-2039. Whilst this doesn't result in a change to the annual average requirement for new homes, it does result in an increase over the duration of the plan from 7,758 to 8,245. This will have an impact on the costs to the Council associated with infrastructure and service delivery but it will also increase the revenues generated from Council Tax.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the Borough
Solicitor)**

The legislative and constitutional requirements for the preparation of a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ("2004 Act") and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 ("2012 Regulations") have been complied with.

The joint plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination (s20 of the 2004 Act) along with the documents prescribed by Regulation 22 of the 2012 Regulations. Prior to its submission to the Secretary of State, the joint DPD was published and representations were invited, pursuant to Regulation 19 and Regulation 20 of the 2012 Regulations. The Joint DPD is currently at the independent examination stage, as prescribed by section 20 of the Act; the modifications consultation stage falls within that stage of the plan preparation process.

If the joint DPD is not prepared in accordance with the 2004 Act and the 2012 Regulations, any subsequent attempt to adopt the plan would be susceptible to challenge.

Risk Management:

There are a number of risks associated with plan making activities and Places for Everyone, namely if the jointly prepared Development Plan Document is not taken forward in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), any subsequent attempt to adopt the plan may be susceptible to challenge.

Places for Everyone forms part of the borough's local plan, and by continuing to progress the examination through consultation on the proposed modifications ensures the Council continues to make progress against the need to have an up to date plan in place. Therefore minimising the risk of government intervention in plan making in Tameside or withholding of central funding.

Access to Information:

[Report to AGMA Executive Board - December 2020](#)

[Report to AGMA Executive Board - February 2021](#)

[Report to Places for Everyone Joint Committee - July, 2021](#)

[District Governance Meetings - July 2021](#)

[Places For Everyone - Documentation](#)

[Places For Everyone Joint DPD Examination Website](#)

[Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications](#)

[Schedule of Proposed Additional Modifications](#)

[Composite Plan](#)

[Schedule of Proposed policies map changes](#)

[Integrated Assessment 2023 Addendum](#)

[Habitats Regulation Assessment 2023 Addendum](#)

Appendix 1. Tameside consultation activities

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Graham Holland.



Telephone: 07970456260



e-mail: graham.holland@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Up until December 2020 a joint development plan document of the ten Greater Manchester local authorities was being prepared, Greater Manchester's Plan for Jobs, Homes & the Environment (known as the "GMSF"). The GMSF 2020 had reached the Regulation 19 (Publication) stage of the process, however, decisions taken by Stockport Council in December 2020 signalled the end of the joint plan of the 10. Following that decision, the remaining nine GM authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) decided to progress a joint plan of the nine and this became known as "Places for Everyone".
- 1.2 At its meeting on the 20 July 2021, members of the Places for Everyone Joint Committee recommended the Places for Everyone plan (and its supporting background documents) to the nine authorities for "publication", pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for an 8 week period for representations.
- 1.3 The "publication" stage was a formal consultation on the draft joint development plan document pursuant to Regulation 19 of the above regulations. It was a statutory stage that provided an opportunity for organisations and individuals to submit their views on the content of the plan.
- 1.4 The "publication" stage consultation ran from August 9, 2021, for 8 weeks, ending on October 3, 2021. Over 15,000 representations were duly made, by over 3,800 individuals and organisations during that consultation stage.
- 1.5 All duly made representations, together with the Regulation 19 Places for Everyone plan, supporting background documents and a number of reports (including details of the consultation that took place, summaries of the main issues raised and the nine authorities' responses to those issues) were submitted to the Secretary of State on February 14, 2022, pursuant to Regulation 22 of the Local Planning Regulations. This is called the "submission" stage and marked the beginning of the independent examination into the plan.

2. THE PLACES FOR EVERYONE EXAMINATION

- 2.1 The examination is the final stage in the plan making process before adoption. The legislative requirements for the examination are contained in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- 2.2 Some guidance about the examination procedure is also provided in the National Planning Practice Guidance chapter on Plan-making. However, many of the detailed procedural aspects of the examination are not prescribed in legislation, allowing inspectors a degree of flexibility in conducting the examination. This enables the inspectors to adapt the procedures to deal with situations as they arise, so as to achieve positive outcomes in a range of different circumstances.
- 2.3 Following submission of a plan, the inspector(s) take control of the examination process from start to finish.
- 2.4 The inspectors' role is to examine whether the submitted plan meets the tests of soundness defined in the National Planning Policy Framework¹ and meets all the relevant legislative

¹ The tests of soundness in paragraph 35 of the NPPF require that the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

requirements, including the duty to co-operate². The Places for Everyone examination therefore concentrated on the issues that affect the plan's soundness and legal compliance and did not delve into other matters.

- 2.5 Three inspectors were appointed by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to hold an independent examination into Places for Everyone: William Fieldhouse, Louise Gibbons and Steven Lee. All three are very experienced planning inspectors and conducted the examination in a very thorough and professional way throughout.
- 2.6 The examination officially began at the point of "submission" (February 2022), however the hearing sessions did not start until the beginning of November 2022. In the early stages of the examination, the inspectors raised a number of Preliminary Questions (PQs) and Matters, Issues, and Questions (MIQs) that were prompted by their review of the plan. These probed issues of soundness and specific issues raised through consultation on the plan. The Places for Everyone authorities responded to the PQs and (together with other stakeholders) to the MIQs. In response to some of the MIQs, the Places for Everyone Team, proposed modifications to the Places for Everyone plan to address issues raised.
- 2.7 The examination hearings sat for 12 weeks in total, including a final session at the beginning of July 2023. The sessions before Christmas considered the spatial strategy and thematic policies and the sessions after Christmas focused on the strategic allocations, Green Belt additions and monitoring. The additional session in July related to five specific proposed allocations (JPA1.1 Heywood/Pilsworth; JPA28 North of Irlam Station; JPA29 Port Salford Extension; JPA30 Ashton Moss West; and JPA33 New Carrington) and related to land within strategic allocations that has also been identified on the Natural England map of deep peaty soils.
- 2.8 The Places for Everyone authorities were represented by Christopher Katkowski KC throughout, with staff from the GMCA, all nine authorities and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) providing expert witnesses.
- 2.9 The examination hearing sessions took place at the former Manchester Fire and Rescue Training and Development Centre in Manchester City centre. It ran very smoothly, with the inspectors and participants alike commenting on how well organised it was. The livestreaming worked well and all the sessions remain available to view via the Combined Authority website.
- 2.10 In addition to the Preliminary Questions and Matters, Issues, and Questions, the inspectors issued 'Action Points' (APs) regularly throughout the duration of the sitting weeks. In these they asked the Places for Everyone authorities to prepare modifications to policies, which related to the detailed wording of the policies, and in respect of the allocations, involved clarification of how the allocation policies link to the thematic (sustainable, housing, greener etc.) policies in the plan. With the exception of two sites, one in Salford (JPA28 – North of Irlam Station) and one in Manchester, close to the Airport (JPA10 – Global Logistics), the inspectors did not recommend the removal of any allocations although, in a small number of cases, they did recommend the amendment of allocation boundaries. For Tameside, site allocation JPA32 South of Hyde, was one such allocation, whereby the site allocation boundary and area of Green Belt to be removed was reduced in size to be consistent with ecological designations present. This was to represent a consistent approach taken across a number of allocations.
- 2.11 Within their Action Points, the inspectors made it clear that the modifications are necessary at that stage of the examination to inform their consideration of whether the Plan is sound and/or how it could be made sound and/or legally compliant by main modifications. They

² Paragraph 24 of the NPPF requires that local planning authorities cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.

also made it clear when they published their action points that they may decide that other or different main modifications are subsequently required as the examination advanced. Updates on each hearing week were provided to members throughout the examination through the Place Directorate weekly newsletter, where a summary of the week's activities, links to the examination website and where relevant, a look ahead to the following week were provided.

- 2.12 The Places for Everyone authorities submitted responses to the Action Points with modifications proposed to the policies where these were considered necessary to make the plan sound. The responses to the individual PQs, MIQs and APs are available on the examination website³. As requested by the inspectors, all the proposed main modifications were compiled into a main modifications schedule which was first published in July 2022 with subsequent editions being published in October and November 2022 and January, May, June and August 2023. Since November 2022 iterations of a composite plan have also been published on the Examination website, alongside the proposed main modifications' schedules, to aid the reader by identifying the proposed modifications in-situ within the plan.

3. PLACES FOR EVERYONE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

- 3.1 It is very normal for the outcome of a local plan examination to be that the inspectors recommend main modifications to the plan, where they are necessary to make the plan sound and legally compliant.
- 3.2 As a matter of law a main modification can only be made if it is necessary in order to make the plan sound. The tests which are applied to determine whether a plan is sound are those set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Therefore, legislation enables the inspector to recommend a main modification only if the plan would otherwise not be sound or legally non-compliant. An inspector has no power to recommend other changes, even if they would improve the plan.
- 3.3 An inspector agrees the text of the proposed main modification with the local planning authority, based in most cases on discussion at the hearing sessions. This was done through the process of Action Points outlined above and it was the responses to these, the various iterations of the proposed main modification schedules and composite plan which informed the Inspectors' consideration of whether the Places for Everyone 2021 Plan was sound and/or how it could be made sound and/or legally compliant by main modifications.
- 3.4 The Inspectors' post hearing letter was published on the examination website on the 11 August 2023. The Inspectors' post hearings' letter is based on a consideration of all the evidence and on the application of professional expertise and judgment. In that letter, the inspectors state that they are now satisfied, at this stage of the examination, that all of the proposed main modifications are necessary to make the Plan sound and would be effective in that regard. This conclusion is, however, without prejudice to their final conclusions that they will reach following consideration of responses to the public consultation to be carried out on the main modifications and which are the subject of this report.
- 3.5 Additional modifications (sometimes also referred to as minor modifications) are changes which do not materially affect the policies in the plan. They may be made to the Places for Everyone Plan, but do not fall within the scope of the examination. A separate schedule of additional modifications has been prepared which will sit alongside the main modifications schedule during the consultation period. These have been prepared at this point in time to make the modified plan more readable, but the inspectors will not consider responses made in respect of these additional modifications, as they do not fall within the scope of the examination.

³ <https://www.hwa.uk.com/projects/gmca/>

- 3.6 Whilst the consultation is only about the proposed main modifications and the policy map changes associated with these main modifications, a schedule of additional modifications and a composite plan illustrating all the proposed modifications in situ have been prepared and are available alongside this report. All documents will be made available at the time of the consultation to assist the reader, but only representations on the main modifications are considered by the inspectors.
- 3.7 The following sections of this report set out what the main modifications mean in terms of the overall aims of the plan and also for Tameside specifically.

4. WHAT DO THE MODIFICATIONS MEAN FOR THE OVERALL AIMS OF THE PLAN

- 4.1 Whilst there are a large number of proposed modifications, including amending the plan period from 2020 to 2037 to 2022 to 2039, they do not change the overall Vision, Objectives and Spatial Strategy of the plan. The inspectors consider that the proposed modification to the plan period are necessary to make the plan sound to ensure that, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework⁴, the Places for Everyone Strategic policies look ahead over a minimum 15 year period from adoption and as a result provide a policy framework for the individual, more detailed plans of each authority, which will follow on from Places for Everyone's adoption.

Spatial Strategy

- 4.2 The spatial strategy remains to deliver sustainable, inclusive growth with the following spatial elements;

- Significant growth in jobs and housing at the core – continuing development in the 'core growth area' encompassing the city centre and beyond to the Etihad in the east, through to the Quays, Trafford Park and Port Salford in the west. The majority of commercial employment growth is proposed in this area and around 50% of overall housing supply is found here and, in the wards, immediately surrounding it (inner areas).
- Boosting northern competitiveness – provision of significant new employment opportunities, including JPA30 Ashton Moss West, supporting infrastructure and a commitment that collectively the northern districts meet their own local housing need, including through JPA31 Godley Green Garden Village and JPA32 South of Hyde; and
- Sustaining southern competitiveness – supporting key economic drivers, for example around Wythenshawe hospital and the Airport, realising the opportunities offered by national infrastructure investment, e.g. HS2, whilst recognising the important green infrastructure assets in the area.

Jobs

- 4.3 Economic prosperity remains central to the overall strategy. It is essential to raising incomes, improving health and quality of life, and providing the finances to deliver better infrastructure, services and facilities. Places for Everyone continues the approach of attracting investment in our city and town centres alongside recognising the importance of investing in strengthening existing and creating new employment locations, so that all communities are able to contribute to, and benefit from, growth.
- 4.4 In order to achieve Greater Manchester's economic growth potential, the plan sets a global target for the nine authorities of just over 2 million sq.m. of new office floorspace and just over 3,500,000 sq.m. of industrial and warehousing floorspace over the plan period. These figures have been modified to reflect the revised plan period, and will inform the preparation in Tameside of Homes, Spaces, Places.

⁴ Paragraph 22.

- 4.5 JPA30 Ashton Moss West continues to be identified in Tameside for 160,000 square metres of employment floorspace, within the E(g)(ii) - Research and Development, E(g)(iii) – Light Industrial and B2 - General Industrial use classes. Following the hearing session discussion regarding Ashton Moss West, the inspectors issued an Action Point note which required a number of modifications to the policy, including removing the word “primarily”, (which preceded the above mentioned use classes) so as to remove any ambiguity as to what is considered appropriate. There were also a number of other modifications made to the policy, an approach taken by the inspectors to ensure consistency in wording across all of the site allocation policies and also to ensure the plan is read as a whole. These modifications do not substantively change the overall objective of proposed allocation policy. Further, reference is also now explicitly made within the policy concerning peat underlying the site and ensuring that appropriate consideration is given to this through construction techniques.

Homes

- 4.6 Greater Manchester is facing a housing crisis. Although the Greater Manchester authorities have built more houses in recent years, wages have not been keeping pace with property price increases and affordability issues have intensified. To address the supply side, the Government’s planning practice guidance sets out a standard methodology for calculating local housing needs to provide local authorities with a clear and consistent understanding of the number of new homes needed in an area.
- 4.7 This standard methodology remains Government policy and the inspectors did not consider there were exceptional circumstances to deviate from using it in the case of Places for Everyone.
- 4.8 Therefore, Places for Everyone still identifies that around 10,300 (10,305) homes are required per year. However, as a result of the change to the plan period, the number of homes to be delivered over the lifetime of the plan has increased from just under 165,000 to just over 175,000 (175,185) new homes, to account for the additional years the plan covers. The plan also continues to support Greater Manchester’s commitment to deliver more affordable housing including ones for social or affordable rent, and Homes, Spaces, Places will set targets within Tameside for the provision of affordable housing based on local evidence relating to need and viability.
- 4.9 For Tameside, Places for Everyone still identifies the same annual average requirement of 485 homes per year, even with the extension to the plan period. However, as a result of the change to the plan period, the number of homes to be delivered over the lifetime of the plan in Tameside has increased from 7,758 to 8,245 accordingly. To deliver on these requirements, JPA31 Godley Green Garden Village and JPA32 South of Hyde, continue to be proposed as allocations for the same quantum of around 2,350 and 440 homes respectively.
- 4.10 Similarly to JPA30 Ashton Moss West, following the hearing session discussions regarding JPA31 Godley Green Garden Village and JPA32 South of Hyde, the inspectors issued an Action Point note which required a number of modifications to the policies, principally to ensure consistency in wording across all of the site allocation policies but also to ensure the plan is read as a whole. These modifications do not substantively change the overall objective of proposed allocation policies.

Environment

- 4.11 However, the plan is not solely concerned with accommodating development. It also includes a range of policies designed to protect and enhance our many and varied green spaces and features which are used in variety of different ways and afforded value by the people who live, work or visit the city-region.
- 4.12 The plan supports the important role of our natural assets by:

- Taking a landscape scale approach to nature restoration;
- Seeking to protect and enhance our network of green and blue infrastructure;
- Seeking a significant overall enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity; and
- Seeking to maintain a new and defensible Green Belt which will endure beyond the plan period.

4.13 Furthermore, the plan supports wider strategies around clean air, walking and cycling and underpins Greater Manchester's ambition to be a carbon neutral city-region by 2038. A key element of this remains that there is an expectation that all new development to be net zero carbon by 2028.

Brownfield land preference

4.14 There remains a strong focus in the plan on directing new development towards sites within the existing urban area, which are often in sustainable locations, close to facilities and served by existing infrastructure. Maximising the use of land in the urban area enables us to minimise the release of greenfield and Green Belt land for development.

4.15 The land supply identified for development in the plan is largely within the urban area:

- Offices - 98%
- Industry and Warehousing- 51%
- Housing - 90%

4.16 There are significant viability issues in parts of the conurbation and there is a need to continue to press Government for support to remediate contaminated land, to provide funding for infrastructure and to support alternative models of housing delivery. The Brownfield Housing Fund is targeted at Combined Authorities and begins to help to address these viability issues, but it is not enough to enable the full potential of our brownfield land supply to be realised.

Green Belt

4.17 The Places for Everyone Plan includes a limited release of Green Belt for both housing and employment. The net loss of Green Belt across the nine boroughs is 2,213 hectares. This compares to a net loss of 1,754 hectares in the Places for Everyone 2021 Plan that was submitted for examination. The net loss of Green Belt proposed in the plan as modified for Tameside is 179 hectares. This compares to a net loss of 139 hectares in the Places for Everyone 2021 plan that was submitted for examination.

4.18 Although the net loss is higher than that in the Places for Everyone 2021 Plan, this is not as a result of more land being proposed for release by the introduction of further development allocations. To the contrary, the number of sites proposed to be allocated within the plan for development has reduced by two and others have also seen the extent of boundaries reduced. Instead, it is due largely to the fact that the inspectors concluded that exceptional circumstances⁵ existed to justify only 18 of the 49 proposed Green Belt additions and therefore only those 18 Green Belt additions could remain in the plan and thereby contribute to the area covered by Green Belt.

4.19 In concluding that exceptional circumstances had not been fully evidenced and justified for each of the other 31 proposed Green Belt additions, including one which is almost 200 hectares in size, the overall net let loss of Green Belt, taking account of both the Green Belt releases and additions, compared against the previously adopted Green Belt boundary is greater than it would have otherwise been had the inspectors concluded that all 49 Green Belt additions were fully evidenced and justified.

⁵ Including the test for adding new land to the Green Belt as set out within paragraph 139 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 4.20 Twelve of the original 49 proposed Green Belt additions are within Tameside. The inspectors concluded that for 7 sites, exceptional circumstances exist to justify them as proposed additions to the Green Belt. Those 7 sites are:
- GBA31 Fox Platt, Mossley;
 - GBA32 Manor Farm Close, Waterloo, Ashton-under-Lyne;
 - GBA35 Woodview, Southview, Carrbrook, Stalybridge;
 - GBA37 Broadbottom Road, Broadbottom;
 - GBA39 Cemetery Road, Denton;
 - GBA40 Hyde Road, Mottram; and
 - GBA41 Ashworth Lane, Mottram.
- 4.21 For the avoidance of doubt, the 5 sites where the inspectors concluded that exceptional circumstances do not exist and are to be removed from the plan are:
- GBA33 Ridge Hill Lane, Ridge Hill, Stalybridge
 - GBA34 Cowbury Green, Long Row, Carbrook, Stalybridge
 - GBA36 Yew Tree Lane, Dukinfield
 - GBA38 Ardenfield, Haughton Green, Denton
 - GBA42 Horses Field, Danebank, Denton
- 4.22 The reduction in the Green Belt additions as proposed by the inspectors does not, however, impact on the delivery of the overall Vision, Spatial Strategy and Strategic Objectives of the plan. Further, the reasons that some of the proposed Green Belt additions did not meet the necessary tests, included in some cases, that existing planning policies and protections, were considered already adequate to protect land from development.
- 4.23 The policies in the Plan would result in the overall extent of the nine authorities' Green Belt reducing by 4.1%. The previously adopted Green Belt covers almost 47% of the land covered by the nine authorities. The Policies in the Places for Everyone Plan would reduce this to just under 45% of the Places for Everyone authorities remaining as designated Green Belt. Within Tameside the policies in the plan would result in the overall extent of Tameside's Green Belt reducing by 3.5%. The previously adopted Green Belt covers just over 49% of Tameside. The policies in the plan would reduce this to 47.4% remaining as designated Green Belt.
- 4.24 The extent of Green Belt loss within Tameside as a result of the plan has always been less than the plan average, which is a consistent position, owing largely to the inspectors' conclusions that exceptional circumstances existed on almost 60%⁶ of the boroughs proposed Green Belt additions, the second highest of any borough proposing additions, in addition to which, the area of Green Belt lost at the JPA32 South of Hyde allocation has also reduced during the course of the examination.

5. RELATIONSHIP WITH TAMESIDES' LOCAL PLAN AND HOMES, SPACES, PLACES

- 5.1 The Places for Everyone Plan is the strategic spatial plan for the nine constituent boroughs and as such sets out a collective planning policy framework. All policies within the plan are strategic policies. It is being prepared as a Joint Development Plan Document of the nine local planning authorities. Once Places for Everyone is adopted it will form part of Tameside's Local Plan. As such other parts of Tameside's local plan, including Homes, Spaces, Places, as this is developed, will need to be consistent with it. In addition, neighbourhood plans will also need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies within it.
- 5.2 The evidence that underpins Places for Everyone Plan will also help to inform Homes, Spaces, Places, as this is developed, but, as a strategic plan, Places for Everyone does not

⁶ By number of sites.

cover everything that a single local plan would do. Tameside's Local Plan is a sum of its parts. Therefore, Homes, Spaces, Places, will set out more detailed policies, including both strategic and non-strategic policies, as appropriate, reflecting local circumstances. This, alongside the Greater Manchester Minerals Plan, the Greater Manchester Waste Plan and Places for Everyone are collectively intended to be the boroughs' local plan. Appendix A of Places for Everyone sets out the policies in other relevant adopted plans which will be replaced.

- 5.3 Homes, Spaces, Places, as with any plan, will be expected to look ahead a minimum period from its adoption, in line with national policy. In amending the plan period from 2020 to 2037 to 2022 to 2039, Places for Everyone Plan should provide an appropriate strategic policy framework for subsequently prepared plans for Tameside, following its adoption. However, in the event that Homes, Spaces, Places, looks beyond 2039, the minimum requirement figures set out in Policies JP-J3, JP-J4 and JP-H1 should be used to inform target(s).

6. INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT AND HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 As part of the development of Places for Everyone, an Integrated Assessment (IA) was undertaken incorporating the requirements of:
- Sustainability Appraisal (SA): mandatory under section 19 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): mandatory under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (which transpose the European Directive 2001/42/EC into English law).
 - Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA): required to be undertaken for plans, policies and strategies by the Equality Act 2010.
 - Health Impact Assessment (HIA): there is no statutory requirement to undertake HIA, however it has been included to add value and depth to the assessment process.
- 6.2 The Integrated Assessment contributed to the development of Places for Everyone through an iterative assessment, which reviews the draft policies and the discrete site allocations against the Integrated Assessment framework.
- 6.3 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to several distinct stages of Assessment which must be undertaken in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) to determine if a plan or project may affect the protected features of a habitats site before deciding whether to undertake, permit or authorise it.
- 6.4 All plans and projects (including planning applications) which are not directly connected with, or necessary for, the conservation management of a habitat site, require consideration of whether the plan or project is likely to have significant effects on that site. If a proposed plan or project is considered likely to have a significant effect on a protected habitats site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) then an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site is required.
- 6.5 Places for Everyone 2021 was assessed as a Plan which was considered likely to have significant effect on one or more European protected site and was therefore informed (and accompanied) by a Habitat Regulation Assessment with mitigation measures identified as appropriate. Through the examination process a need has been identified to provide further planning guidance as to how potential impacts upon the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation may be mitigated. A Supplementary Planning Document will be prepared by the boroughs of Rochdale, Oldham and Tameside to provide further guidance to relevant applications for planning permission.

- 6.6 Further, the inspectors have made it clear that the modifications they have decided should be made to the plan should also be subject to sustainability appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment as appropriate. Additionally, the Inspectors have made it clear that the sustainability appraisal and Habitat Regulation Assessment reports will be subject to public consultation, alongside the modifications, before the end of the examination.
- 6.7 Accordingly, addendums have been produced for both the IA (incorporating the sustainability appraisal) and the HRA, assessing the impact of the modifications.
- 6.8 With respect to the sustainability appraisal, where individual policy scores have moved from positive to uncertain or neutral, the SA acknowledges that when the plan is read as a whole, the topic is covered in other relevant policies and therefore no residual impacts have been recommended.
- 6.9 The outcome of the Habitat Regulation Assessment screening assessment is that there are no likely significant effects on European sites, other than those identified in the Submission version of the Habitat Regulation Assessment. Therefore, it has not been necessary to amend the Places for Everyone Appropriate Assessment as a result of the proposed main modifications.
- 6.10 The Integrated Assessment and the Habitat Regulations Assessment addendum reports are available alongside this report and will be published alongside the main modifications schedule.

7. EVIDENCE BASE

- 7.1 A comprehensive evidence base was assembled to support the policies and proposals within Places for Everyone which was made available for consultation in 2021. This evidence was submitted alongside the Plan in February 2022 and has remained available on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's website since then and throughout the examination. As one of the tests of soundness is whether a plan is "justified – ...based on proportionate evidence", the Inspectors considered this evidence as part of their Examination into whether, or not, Places for Everyone is "sound".
- 7.2 As detailed above, this evidence base will also be used to inform other parts of Tameside's local plan as these are developed, such as Homes, Spaces, Places, alongside other supporting evidence prepared as necessary.

8. STATUS OF PROPOSED NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK CHANGES

- 8.1 In December 2022 the Government consulted upon a number of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The consultation ran from 22 December 2022 to 2 March 2023. The consultation sought views on a proposed approach to updating the National Planning Policy Framework whilst at the same time seeking views on proposals to prepare National Development Management Policies, how policy could be developed to support levelling up, and how national planning policy is currently accessed by users.
- 8.2 The inspectors made a statement that in light of the transitional arrangements (contained within the draft NPPF changes), they would carry on with the examination as programmed in the context of the tests of soundness set out in current National Planning Policy Framework, published in 2021.
- 8.3 The Government is still analysing the feedback, therefore the draft (as proposed to be changed) version of the National Planning Policy Framework cannot be used to determine whether a Plan is "sound". Accordingly, it would be unlawful to propose any main modification

to Places for Everyone and/or withdraw from Places for Everyone, on the basis of the draft proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. This is especially the case given that Places for Everyone is at such an advanced stage of preparation.

- 8.4 As no changes to the National Planning Policy Framework have yet been published, the examination progressed through its scheduled programme of sessions on the basis of the current National Planning Policy Framework. The inspectors duly issued their post hearing letter with the schedule of proposed main modifications that they consider are necessary to make the plan sound and/or legally compliant and which should therefore be made available for a period of public consultation.
- 8.5 The schedule of main modifications, which is available alongside this report, represents those changes to the plan that the inspectors consider are necessary. They do not include any modifications on the basis of the draft proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. To make further changes to the schedule, e.g. amending overall development targets, removing additional sites which Places for Everyone proposes to take out of the Green Belt and/or amending the Green Belt addition sites, on the basis of the consultation draft National Planning Policy Framework would not be lawful.

9. PREVIOUS CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Five consultations have taken place in relation to the plan, the first four in relation to the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and the fifth one being in relation to Places for Everyone. The first, in November 2014 was on the scope of the plan and the initial evidence base, the second in November 2015, was on the vision, strategy and strategic growth options, and the third, on a Draft Plan in October 2016. The fourth consultation was on The Greater Manchester Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment: the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Revised Draft 2019 (GMSF 2019) and took place in 2019. It received over 17,000 responses. The responses received informed the production of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework 2020. The withdrawal of Stockport Council in December 2020 prevented the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework 2020 proceeding to Regulation 19 Publication stage and instead work was undertaken to prepare Places for Everyone 2021. Therefore, the responses to the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework 2019 were used to inform the production of Places for Everyone instead. The fifth consultation ran from August 9, 2021, for 8 weeks, ending on October 3, 2021. It related to publication of the plan and over 15,000 representations were duly made, by over 3,800 individuals and organisations.

10. PLACES FOR EVERYONE MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION

- 10.1 At this modifications consultation stage, whilst anyone can make a representation, the Planning Inspectorate Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations⁷ makes it clear (at section 6) that the consultation is only about the proposed main modifications and any consequential policies map changes and no other aspect of the plan.
- 10.2 Whilst it is only necessary to consult on the main modifications and any related policy map changes, it is proposed to also consult on the additional modifications that have been identified too, so that the full suite of overall proposed changes to the plan are clear. The inspectors will, however, only consider comments received to the main modifications; the nine Places for Everyone authorities will consider those comments relating specifically to the additional modifications.

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/examining-local-plans-procedural-practice/procedure-guide-for-local-plan-examinations>

- 10.3 As at the Regulation 19 stage, this consultation will be hosted by the GMCA and be carried out in line with the requirements of the relevant authority's Statements of Community Involvement and the guidance contained in the above mentioned Planning Inspectorate procedure guide. The procedure guide states that "the nature and duration of the consultation should reflect that of the consultation held at Regulation 19 stage, where appropriate. This means it should last at least six weeks." However, as the Regulation 19 consultation ran for eight weeks, it is considered appropriate to reflect that in the duration of the modifications' consultation. Therefore, it is proposed that the consultation would run for a period of eight weeks. Consideration of which consultation activities undertaken in Tameside at the regulation 19 stage and which continue to be appropriate for this modifications consultation are set out in Appendix 1.

11. WEIGHT BEING GIVEN TO PFE IN PLANNING DECISIONS

- 11.1 Places for Everyone is a material consideration and therefore is already being taken into account when considering applications for planning permission.
- 11.2 Given it is a material consideration, the next point for consideration is the weight to be attributed to it in making such decisions. Paragraph 48 of the National Planning Policy Framework sets out what needs to be taken into account when considering the weight to give to emerging plans. In all cases, this is ultimately a judgement for the decision maker, considering the specific circumstances of an application for planning permission. A judgement is therefore made on a case by case basis.
- 11.3 Whatever weight is attributed to the plan always needs to be reasonable and in line with national policy. As it is not yet adopted, Places for Everyone cannot be given full weight in planning decisions. However, given the stage it has reached, i.e., the receipt of the post hearings' inspectors' letter, it is considered reasonable to give elements of the plan substantial weight, subject to the inspectors consideration of responses to the proposed modifications consultation on the final content of the plan.
- 11.4 As the inspector's letter gives a clear steer as to the wording required to make the plan sound, the weight is applied to the text of the plan as proposed to be modified in the main modifications (not the Regulation 19 version of Places for Everyone).

12. NEXT STEPS

- 12.1 Following the conclusion of the consultation, the representations received will be forwarded to the Programme Officers along with a report listing all of the representations; a summary of the main issues raised; and a brief response, on behalf of the nine districts, to those main issues.
- 12.2 The inspectors will consider all the representations made on the proposed main modifications before finalising the examination report and the schedule of recommended main modifications. Further hearing sessions will not usually be held, unless the Inspectors consider them essential to deal with substantial issues raised in the representations, or to ensure fairness.
- 12.3 When deciding whether or not to recommend that the local planning authorities should make the main modifications, the inspectors will normally consider them in the form in which they were published for consultation. However, in some limited circumstances, the responses to consultation may lead the Inspector to consider that a new main modification, or an amendment to one that has already been consulted on, is also necessary to make the plan sound or legally compliant; or that a proposed main modification is not in fact necessary for soundness and should not be recommended. The Inspectors may only recommend such

changes to the main modifications without further consultation if they are satisfied that no party would be prejudiced as a result. For example, the consultation already undertaken on the main modifications might have adequately addressed the point, or the amendment might be a very minor one. Should further consultation be necessary a further report will be presented to the nine authorities for approval.

- 12.4 Alternatively, if the inspectors consider that no further consultation is necessary following the modifications' consultation (which is the subject of this report), the ultimate decision to adopt must be taken by each of the nine participating local authorities. This will be the subject of a further report at the appropriate time.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 As set out at the front of the report.

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Consultation Activities		
<i>Nature of the activity</i>	<i>Undertaken at the Regulation 19 Stage</i>	<i>To be undertaken at the modification consultation</i>
Letter/email to “specific consultees”,	Y	Y
Letter/email to all those on Council’s Local Plan database including general consultation bodies	Y	Y
Paper copies of documents in deposit locations (Council libraries) including the Integrated Assessment in Ashton Library.	Y	Y
Dedicated webpage(s) for the consultation	Y	Y
Un-staffed public exhibition within Ashton Market Hall and Ashton Library	Y	N ¹
All Tameside staff, Councillor and MP email	Y	Y
Site notices for allocations	Y	Y
Site notices for Green Belt Additions	Y	Y
Media articles;	Y	Y
Formal notice in local press publication	Y	Y
Social media items	Y	Y
Posters	Y	Y
Tameside staff email signatures	Y	Y
Phone and email enquiry contacts	Y	Y

¹ The nature of the consultation, being specific and targeted to the modifications limits the ability to prepare exhibition material, it is not at this stage considered to be appropriate to prepare the same. Posters however will be provided in similar locations.

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Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	27 September 2023
Executive Member:	Councillor Dave Sweeton, Executive member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment
Reporting Officer:	Julian Jackson - Director of Place
Subject:	ASHTON MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE
Report Summary:	The report seeks approval to create a Greater Manchester (GM) Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) around the Ashton Growth Corridor to be known as the Ashton Mayoral Development Zone (AMDZ).
Recommendations:	<p>That Executive Cabinet APPROVE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) To formally establish a Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) around Ashton Growth Corridor to be known as the Ashton Development Zone (AMDZ).(ii) The establishment of the AMDZ Board.(iii) A budget of £100,000 (to be resourced via the unallocated Levelling Up Capacity Grant awarded to the Council of £125,000 in 22/23 and £70,000 23/24) to support the proposed next steps in Section 5 of this report.(iv) The TMBC Director of Place to implement the AMDZ and manage the programme of works in Ashton associated with its establishment and delivery, subject to on-going performance and reporting to Executive Cabinet. <p>That Executive Cabinet NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(v) The principles of the business case and development strategy for the AMDZ, and in noting agree to them without modification.(vi) The above recommendation will also be sought by the GM Combined Authority.
Corporate Plan:	Key aims of the Corporate Plan are to provide opportunities for people to fulfil their potential through work, skills and enterprise and to ensure modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment that works for all generations and future generations. The interventions that will be supported by the proposed Ashton Mayoral Development Zone will deliver against these aims in the areas of job creation, modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment.
Policy Implications:	The proposed interventions will support the policy aims of the Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy 2021, Tameside Climate Change & Environment Strategy, the Council's growth priorities agreed at Council February 2020 and the Places for Everyone joint development plan document.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance	<p>There is no recurrent revenue budget for the proposed AMDZ. The decision to create a budget in 2023/24 is wholly dependent on external funding received/to be received.</p> <p>The Council received Levelling Up Fund Capacity Revenue Grant</p>

Officer)

of £0.125m in 2022/23, all of which was carried forward to 2023/ 24 to support expenditure in this financial year. A further £0.070m has been received in 2023/24, providing a total of £0.195m of grant funding to support the budget approval in the recommendations.

As such, the Council is in a position to apply the grant received to the creation of a budget for 2023/24 only. Should the grant not be utilised in full in 2023/24, the Council can direct a further one-off budget creation in 2024/25 with the remaining funding.

The grant is to fund revenue costs associated with the formulation of high-quality bids which will support future developments. The creation of the AMDZ around the Ashton Growth Corridor will complement work planned to Ashton Town Centre and Public Realm as outlined in sections 2.5 – 2.10.

The AMDZ is expected to increase local taxation in future years. Whilst there are no certain time frames for growth, it is expected to be beyond the partial reset on the Greater Manchester pool in 2025/26 and as such will provide local taxation growth to Tameside under the new devolution deal agreed for GM.

Business rates growth will support the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and longer-term financial sustainability. Additional rates income can also support in the delivery of the Council's priorities for expenditure to deliver Corporate Plan outcomes where budget requirements allow for suitable and appropriate investment.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the
Borough Solicitor)**

As set out in the main body of the report the Mayoral Zone is not a legal entity in itself and will not have any governance and decision making powers.

However, it will serve as an effective mechanism to bring together the various work streams affecting the area, continue to drive momentum, encourage further investment in the area and raise the profile of the area and opportunities generally.

Risk Management:

Risks associated with the proposal are set out at Section 6.

Access to Information:

CONFIDENTIAL

Not for Publication: The appendix to this report contains exempt information relating to paragraph 3 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) in that it relates to private financial and business affairs of the Council and a series of developers active within the Borough.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Mike Reed – Head of Major Programmes



Telephone: 07974 111 756



e-mail: mike.reed@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has identified the Ashton Growth Corridor, comprising St Petersfield, Ashton Moss and Ashton Town Centre, as one of its priority areas to deliver growth and implement the objectives of the Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy 2021-26. The location forms part of the Greater Manchester (GM) Eastern Growth Cluster, which is one of six Growth Locations across GM that will deliver new development, create and retain jobs, offer better job opportunities, enable training and skill development to increase the number of residents in employment.
- 1.2 The GM Eastern Growth Cluster comprises the Ashton Growth Corridor and the Hyde Growth Triangle. The major development opportunities within the Ashton Growth Corridor are St Petersfield, Aston Moss, and Ashton Town Centre.
- 1.3 The GM Strategy as supported by the Places for Everyone (PfE) Joint Development Plan, within the final stages of its examination, seeks to rebalance the GM economy by accelerating the economic growth and competitiveness across the northern areas of GM. A number of GM local authority areas, including Tameside, perform significantly worse overall than the regional centre and southern areas and this is forecast to continue to worsen unless there are co-ordinated interventions to address this.
- 1.4 Central to PfE is to deliver inclusive growth across the nine boroughs through making the most of locations and assets best placed to support economic growth and in particular boost the competitiveness of the northern districts. Critical to this is to provide quality investment opportunities that help to address disparities and creating places which will be more resilient to change. Currently there are high levels of deprivation within areas such as Ashton, characterised by relatively low incomes, low house prices, low qualifications, low economic activity, low proportions in higher managerial/professional occupations, and poor average health. Significant interventions will be required to address these issues through the provision of a good supply of high quality development sites, investment in the town centre and major infrastructure improvements.
- 1.5 The Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy identified the following four key challenges for the borough:
- Low levels of skills attainment - only 29% of Tameside residents are qualified to NVQ4+, compared to 41% and 44% in Greater Manchester and England respectively.
 - Poor health outcomes - health of the population of Tameside is generally worse than Greater Manchester and England with lower life expectancies and percentage of life spent in good health (72% for females in Tameside compared to 75% and 77% in Greater Manchester and England).
 - Low levels of productivity - from 2014-2018 Tameside's productivity declined by 0.8% compared to an increase in Greater Manchester of 7.7%. This is due to the sectoral mix of Tameside and a lack of growth in higher productivity, knowledge intensive sectors
 - The number of residents that are low paid - Tameside has the second lowest average gross weekly pay in Greater Manchester, with median gross annual earnings of £27,706 below the average for England as a whole of £31,490.
- 1.6 The Indices of Deprivation (IMD) combine a range of economic, social and housing indicators to provide a measure of relative deprivation, i.e. they measure the position of areas against each other within different domains. Tameside is ranked 23 most deprived out of 333 authorities; based on the IMD average rank. It is a weighted average of the seven IMD domains: Income Deprivation, Employment Deprivation, Health Deprivation and Disability, Education Skills and Training Deprivation, Barriers to Housing and Services, Living Environment Deprivation, and Crime. Specifically, with regards to income deprivation, Tameside is ranked 34 most deprived out of 333 authorities; based on the IMD average rank.

Furthermore the Ashton Growth Corridor area falls within the St Peters and Ashton Waterloo wards which are within the top 10% most deprived areas nationally.

2. ASHTON DEVELOPMENT ZONE

- 2.1 It is therefore proposed, to support the delivery of these ambitions, by creating a GM Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) for the Ashton Growth Corridor area to be known as the Ashton Mayoral Development Zone (AMDZ). The AMDZ will bring together the leader of Tameside Council alongside the GM Mayor and other relevant organisations and agencies to work in partnership to deliver a joined up approach to realising the full potential of this area.
- 2.2 The AMDZ will cover the Ashton Growth Corridor and consist of the project areas of St Petersfield, Ashton Moss, and Ashton Town Centre, with a focus on supporting the delivery of growth and innovation in this location, considering how the impacts and benefits can be felt more widely. The area already benefits from significant strategic transport infrastructure. However, there is an identified need to capitalise more effectively on these assets to accelerate delivery of development and drive the viability and vitality of the Town Centre to support further investment and growth. It is proposed that the boundary of the AMDZ is kept flexible and constantly under review at this stage to maximise the potential opportunities.
- 2.3 The St. Petersfield Masterplan (2021) has been completed to provide the long term strategy for the delivery of new development across an area of Council owned sites. The area is identified for the development of a mix of uses including residential and additional employment space in the form of a hub for innovation and the growth of the digital, creative and tech sector in the long term, to complement the completed Ashton Old Baths scheme, whilst also delivering increased town centre residential development in the short term. This has the potential to support the growth of innovative businesses in the locality with future pathways to both larger office premises in the St Petersfield area and advanced manufacturing and materials science employment space at Ashton Moss
- 2.4 Ashton Moss is a significant employment development site with potential to provide grow on space for Tameside's manufacturing and engineering sectors due to the current lack of available development space in the Borough whilst also providing an opportunity to attract inward investment. The site provides a significant opportunity to deliver new employment space for advanced manufacturing and materials science uses, alongside greater engagement with Higher Educational Institutions. A development framework for the Ashton Moss Innovation Park is currently being finalised by the Council working with the private sector landowners. A draft¹ of which supported the examination process of Places for Everyone.
- 2.5 The Council has secured £19.9m from the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) for Ashton Town Centre. The specific interventions being funding via the LUF have been prepared in the context of the emerging wider strategic vision for Ashton Town Centre. These interventions are critical to unlocking the comprehensive redevelopment of the Town Centre as well as helping to deliver a catalytic economic and social impact for the local community. The works funded via LUF are focused on commencement of the refurbishment programme for Ashton Town Hall; public realm improvements, with a focus on the Market Square; and enabling works on the former interchange site. These interventions will provide the initial stage in making Ashton Town Centre attractive to existing businesses and their employees, alongside new businesses and workers from St Petersfield and Ashton Moss developments to both live in and use the centre.
- 2.6 The AMDZ will be a strategic partnership to drive and accelerate growth and fulfil the potential of the area. It will help to raise the profile of the Ashton Growth Corridor and Tameside as a

¹ Examination document OD27 https://www.hwa.uk.com/site/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/8367_DevelopmentFramework_DRAFT_230220.pdf

whole; positioning the opportunities that exist for future funding, investment and GM support. It will provide a mechanism for effective engagement with key organisations both from the public and private sectors, whilst strengthening wider stakeholder relationships, including those with the local community.

- 2.7 The ambition for the AMDZ is to enable the Ashton Growth Corridor to fulfil its potential and contribute to Tameside and GM growth aspirations, maintaining the momentum of successful regeneration already underway across the area. Collectively, St. Petersfield, Ashton Moss and Ashton Town Centre are major catalysts for growth but require a longer-term vision and strategy to deliver and maximise the potential of existing assets. The programme for the delivery of these areas which achieves the objectives of the growth location will be set out through the development of a Business Case overseen by the AMDZ Board.
- 2.8 The draft vision for the AMDZ area is for it to be “an economic growth engine for the east of Manchester City Region with the potential to strengthen links with Yorkshire offering highly accessible employment opportunities, supported by exceptional further educational institutions and a choice of attractive and affordable homes within a thriving historic market town on the doorstep of the Peak District”.
- 2.9 Connecting residents to jobs will be an important component with both improved connectivity within the project areas of the AMDZ and across the wider area to better connect existing communities. The Ashton Growth Corridor already benefits from strong public transport connectivity via the Metrolink connecting Manchester City Centre with Ashton. Rail connectivity into Manchester City Centre and to Leeds available by rail from Ashton-under-Lyne station and the completion of the Transpennine Rail Upgrade has the potential to increase train frequency and improve journey times. At the heart of the GM Bee Network will be a step change in the quality and availability of bus services connecting residential areas to employment growth. New bus services will be embedded in the proposals for Bus Reform which, through a new franchising arrangement, will ensure high quality, low carbon fleet vehicles, integrated ticketing, and attractive passenger facilities. Key routes in Ashton are to benefit from Quality Bus Transit (QBT) interventions and will be improved using a Streets for All approach to enhance both the efficiency and quality of services (though bus priority) and the ease and attractiveness of walking and cycling options to access services and destinations.
- 2.10 Achieving the ambitions of the AMDZ will require a focused, long-term plan with a clear framework to identify the priority actions, appropriate financial resources and leadership. External financial support from LUF has already been secured to deliver the first stage of regeneration in Ashton Town Centre and TfGM has secured funding through CRSTS, including the QBT projects and infrastructure funding programmes some of which is supporting activity in this area. Furthermore, the GMCA and Homes England have both provided revenue funding to support the sites in the AMDZ area. The Council is continuing to work with developers and land owners that have a controlling interest at Ashton Moss and key sites within Ashton Town Centre, in addition to seeking a development partner for its land holdings at St Petersfield.
- 2.11 There are a range of anticipated benefits arising from the implementation of the AMDZ as follows:
- Assist in strategically focussing development activity across the area.
 - Align public sector investment to assist in unlocking the area’s potential.
 - Provide the profile and ability to create a diverse mix of investment propositions.
 - To bring together appropriate experience and capacity in development and placemaking from across the public sector to support delivery of a long-term programme.
 - Enable a single place integrated approach supported by a long term business plan for these activities.

- Capitalise fully on the existing strategic infrastructure already in place in the locality to deliver growth and address deprivation challenges in the area,
- Make full use of the Devolution Deal levers with the area of the Brownfield Housing Fund, Single Settlement relating to Housing and Transport, Influence of the Affordable Homes Programme, Growth Zones, Investment Zones and partnership with Network Rail.

2.12 In addition, the AMDZ will support the Council's wider corporate priorities for growth across all town centres within Tameside and our strategic sites, such as Godley Green which will provide the strategic housing supply for the Eastern Growth Cluster.

2.13 Agreement is therefore sought to formally establish the AMDZ. The formal establishment of the AMDZ will provide a clear mechanism to align public and private sector investment and ensure that there is commitment to the principle to delivering inclusive and sustainable growth across the three areas of St Petersfield, Ashton Moss and Ashton Town Centre.

3. PROPOSED GOVERNANCE

3.1 The AMDZ will be a non-statutory entity that provides overarching strategic direction for this area and seeks to further refine the ambition and delivery challenges. It will demonstrate co-ordinated local commitment to bringing forward developments and engage with funding partners to make the strategic case for their support. The delivery and specific governance for strategic development sites, such as Ashton Moss, St Petersfield and Ashton Town Centre will remain a function of the Council with decisions being made via the usual executive decision routes.

3.2 It is envisaged that membership of the AMDZ Board will include the Leader of the Council; the GM Mayor; the Chief Executive of the Council; senior representatives of the GMCA, Homes England, and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM); relevant Council Executive Members; the Council Director of Place, the Council Section 151 Officer, a Council legal representative; a representative from a Higher Education Institution, a representative from Central Government, and other senior representatives of relevant external public or private sector organisations to be identified.

3.3 An AMDZ Officer Working Group will meet quarterly and manage the day to day workings of the AMDZ with responsibility to review the work programme for the AMDZ; coordinate staff resources across the Council, GMCA; TfGM and other key stakeholder groups; and seek to align partners' investment planning and resources within the AMDZ.

3.4 The AMDZ Board and supporting governance structure will collectively develop priority projects for public sector funding to stimulate change and lever growth. While the AMDZ will focus on the three project areas of St Petersfield, Ashton Moss and Ashton Town Centre, it is important that the work of the AMDZ considers how the impacts and benefits of development in these area can be widely felt across the Eastern Growth Cluster and Tameside as a whole, with specific linkages to work already underway in respect of town centre regeneration, business supply chains, cluster networks and links between research and business.

4. HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES

4.1 Following establishment, the AMDZ Board will agree its key Objectives and prepare a draft Strategic Business Case for approval. The board members will include private sector representation creating a robust public private approach to bringing forward proposals within the AMDZ.

- 4.2 The AMDZ Board will develop a Strategic Business Case for the delivery of the following high level objectives for the area, consistent with local, regional and national policy, consisting of:
- Improve choice of homes, in particular modern energy efficient homes for rent and sale including affordable homes.
 - Attract large scale employment in target sectors, with a focus on Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Health Innovation, Digital, Creative and Media and Clean Growth.
 - Grow and diversify the Ashton Town Centre offer including housing, leisure, health and culture, whilst increasing footfall.
 - Reduce property vacancy rates in the area by repurposing space to create a more diverse offer in the Town Centre and make better use of existing sites and premises.
 - Strengthen and grow the existing businesses within the area.
 - Contribute to the delivery of the transport strategy for the area that capitalises on the existing strategic transport infrastructure and enhances connectivity between different parts of the Town Centre, in particular St Petersfield and Ashton Interchange, with improved walking/cycling routes and better quality public realm.
 - Contribute to the delivery of the social infrastructure and amenity required to support an increase in the business and residential population of the area and to benefit existing residents.
 - Attract public and private sector investment to support the delivery of employment and residential growth.
 - Work with partners including Further Education Colleges and Higher Education Institutions to ensure that the local labour force has the skills to meet the need of new and growing businesses, residential and employment growth.
 - Ensure that the development of inclusive and sustainable growth of the AMDZ are contributing to the wider regeneration of the Eastern Growth Cluster and Tameside as a whole.
 - Through the AMDZ the Council will work closely with the GMCA, TfGM, Homes England, other relevant public bodies and the private sector to achieve its objectives.
- 4.3 This work will also contribute to the achievement of a range of outcomes, including:
- Increased population living in Ashton.
 - Increased vitality and viability of the Town Centre and extended length of stay and spend of visitors.
 - Increased council tax and business rates.
 - More diverse employment opportunities.
 - Enhanced skills and attract higher skilled and higher paid jobs.
 - Boosted northern competitiveness of Greater Manchester.
 - Improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes.
- 4.4 The Business Case will set out and refine the project programme that will be closely aligned to and include the programme for transport improvements.
- 4.5 The AMDZ Board will prepare a Strategic Business Plan for approval by the Council and the GMCA on an annual basis prior to it being adopted formally by the AMDZ. By the end of March 2024, it is proposed that AMDZ will deliver against the following objectives:
- A joint Investment Strategy agreed with the Council, GMCA, TfGM, Homes England, GMCA and the other AMDZ Board members.
 - Production of a dynamic delivery pipeline demonstrating how the employment and housing delivery for the area will be achieved over the short, medium and long term.
 - Initial engagement as the AMDZ with other infrastructure partners together to develop an infrastructure roadmap to set out the requirements to enable delivery within the MDZ area.
 - If required, a land acquisition strategy will be developed to support the objectives of the AMDZ vision.
- 4.6 The Business Case will focus on refining the programme for delivery in the three areas of St Petersfield, Ashton Moss and Ashton Town Centre. In doing its work the AMDZ Board will at

all times consider how the development of these three areas will benefit the wider Eastern Growth Cluster and Tameside as a whole.

- 4.7 The AMDZ Board will receive future project progress updates and more detailed delivery plans and investment propositions to achieve the development programme. The work programme will also consider the most appropriate longer term delivery mechanisms and identify the need for any further additional analytical and evidence work required, specifically in respect of more clearly articulating the Economic Case and benefits for the AMDZ and seek specific funding for the component projects.
- 4.8 The AMDZ Board will monitor progress against expected benefits from the development. Each project will be supported by a risk register and risk mitigation strategy as part of existing project governance arrangements within Tameside. Key stakeholders will be identified and a communication and stakeholder plan will also be brought to an early meeting of the AMDZ Board. Through regular reporting to the Council's Executive Cabinet and the GMCA there will be transparency and accountability of delivery in the AMDZ.

5. PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

5.1 The proposed next steps in relation to the AMDZ are set out below:

- To formally establish the AMDZ Board and prepare a draft Strategic Business Plan for approval by the Council and the GMCA on an annual basis prior to it being adopted formally by the AMDZ.
- To prepare the Ashton Growth Corridor Investment Prospectus and Strategy, which will be a highly visible document which provides a clear vision, showcases the Ashton Growth Corridor assets and opportunities including recent and future investment. This will provide a clear strategy which articulates the development potential and a pipeline of sites and the role that the public sector can play working with the private sector to unlock investment.
- To complete the process for procurement of a developer partner for the Council owned sites at St Petersfield to maintain momentum for the next stages of development within this area, with the procurement to be finalised in the context of the wider future opportunities across the AMDZ.
- To finalise the Ashton Moss Development Framework for Council approval and continue discussions with private sector landowners at Ashton Moss to determine the programme and detailed next steps to enable future development.
- To continue delivery of the Ashton Town Centre LUF programme for the period to 31 March 2025.
- To continue discussion with private sector land owners within Ashton Town Centre and undertake options testing and viability assessment as part of comprehensive review of development opportunities in the Town Centre.
- To complete an assessment for Council owned opportunity sites to determine which could potentially be released early to support a first phase of residential development in the Town Centre.
- To engage with public and private sector landowners, local developers and Register Providers, and TfGM.
- To engage with key stakeholders including large local businesses, health providers/occupiers, education providers, Universities and research institutions, and MIDAS.
- To continue evidence gathering, including updated footfall information and analysis of vacancy and take up of commercial space over the last 5 years.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The main project risks associated with the proposal have been identified in the table below.

Table 1: Risk

Risk Area	Detail	RAG Rating	Mitigation	RAG Rating
Programme	Some sites for future development are not in Council ownership / control, but rest with private landowners. May impact on ability to deliver.	Yellow	Existing relationships the major private sector land owners are being formalised through relevant arrangements.	Green
Programme	Lack of capacity within the Council and partners to undertake workstreams in line with expectations.	Red	Early engagement to understand requirements and make best uses of resources via agree programme.	Yellow
Financial	Insufficient budget to complete the scope of works required.	Red	Early engagement with partners will help to clearly understand requirements and maximise opportunities for external funding.	Yellow

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 The creation of a Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) to be known as the Ashton Development Zone (AMDZ) will support delivery of the GM Eastern Growth Cluster Growth Location and the Council's growth ambitions at St Petersfield, Ashton Moss, and Ashton Town Centre. This will help to maximise the full potential of the Ashton Growth Corridor and capitalise on the existing assets and infrastructure in the area to deliver growth.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 As set out at the front of the report.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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