

Briefing Paper to the Riverside Area Committee

12th January 2022

Wards:

Newington and
Gypsyville, St Andrews
and Docklands, Drypool

Regeneration – Major Projects

Briefing Paper of the Assistant Director, Major Projects and Infrastructure

1. Purpose of the Paper and Summary

To update Members of Riverside Area Committee on the regeneration projects delivered by the Major Projects & Infrastructure Team.

2. Background

- 2.1 This briefing paper outlines the progress made within the Riverside area, including an update on developments currently on site and new programmes being brought forward as a result of successful funding bids.

3. Issues for Consideration

City Centre & Gateways

Albion Square

- 3.1 The design team are currently progressing RIBA Stage 3 design works and have commenced engagement with key stakeholders both internally and externally. Further engagement with stakeholder, businesses and the wider community will take place as the project progresses alongside the ongoing site investigations, surveys and exploratory works.
- 3.2 Residual asbestos content remains within the building, which will be removed under controlled demolition works. It anticipated that demolition works will commence in early 2022, these works include the retention and restoration of the Mural.

A63 Castle Street Improvements – Murdoch’s Connection Footbridge

- 3.3 Waverley Street (former Arco offices) – Balfour Beatty have taken occupation and it will be utilised as a construction compound until 2025.

- 3.4 Porter Street Bridge – Construction of the piling platform on both sides of A63 is now complete. The bridge units have been delivered to site. The current timeline for the bridge installation is January. A temporary signalised pedestrian crossing is in place until the bridge opens.
- 3.5 Mytongate/Mainline - Hardening of the central reserve and erection of a temporary central barrier is complete. The 4 lanes of traffic have now been pushed northwards to create working space for the ongoing underpass works on the south side. The traffic will operate in this manner for at least the next six months. Works to strengthen the ground conditions are in progress. The construction of the underpass walls and piling, which will enable Castle Street to be lowered by up to 7 metres, is also advancing. Commercial Road is due to remain closed (to/from Castle Street) until next April. Signed diversions are in place.
- 3.6 Holiday Inn and Kingston Retail Park - Ground works to provide the amended retail car park are complete. Preparatory groundworks including excavation are in progress at the Holiday Inn. The vehicle entrance from Castle Street is now closed. Works to the internal access road and car park form the next phase.
- 3.7 Trinity Burial Ground – Archaeological site-based activities are complete. Off-site analysis and recording will continue for a further 12 months.
- 3.8 Old Town – The closure of Dagger Lane, Fish Street and Vicar Lane, at their connections with Castle Street, are substantially complete. Access for pedestrians and cyclists will continue.
- 3.9 High Street underpass - Paving of the footways and the pedestrian space under the bridge on the western side is substantially complete. Works to the eastern side will follow. Luminaire lighting to the abutment walls has been tested and fabrication can now be instructed. This lighting will link with the wider city centre system. Access to the Modern Courts land is behind programme, delaying the reconstruction works to create the pedestrian access ramps from Market Place and the new soft landscaping scheme. There is the potential for temporary pedestrian diversions via Market Place and Blanket Row, arising from this delay.

Lowgate Bowlalley Lane

- 3.10 Works have progressed well on the western footway of Market Place and Lowgate. Paving is almost complete from the A63 to Bowlalley Lane. Paving works are continuing on the section between Bowlalley Lane and Alfred Gelder Street. This section of paving will be complete late January 2022.

- 3.11 The reconstruction works to the footways in Bowlalley Lane are complete. There are elements of carriageway work and reinstatement which will be carried out late February 2022.
- 3.12 The one-way closure to the northbound lane will be switched mid-January so that the southbound lane is closed. Works will then commence on the reconstruction of the eastern footway.
- 3.13 This element of works will see the scheme through to completion by mid-April 2022.

Cruise Hull & Yorkshire

- 3.14 The Council is due to appoint the Lead Planner in early January 2022. As a result of this appointment, the council will be able to progress the project in completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), and subsequently submit a planning application in 2022 for the Sammy's Point site.

Hull: Yorkshire's Maritime City

- 3.15 The Contractor for Dock Office Chambers and Hull Maritime Museum is making good progress. The strip out of Dock Office Chambers is almost complete and asbestos removal has commenced in Hull Maritime Museum, now that it is empty of all objects.
- 3.16 The restoration works to the Arctic Corsair and Spurn Lightship has commenced. The Arctic Corsair has been in dry dock and a detailed inspection of the hull has been undertaken. The Spurn Lightship is now in dry dock for the same inspection to take place.
- 3.17 The removal of the historic crane from the North End Shipyard is almost complete, following which its restoration will commence.
- 3.18 A good response was received for Community Grants Scheme applications. These have now been individually scored and will now be moderated before grant awards are announced.
- 3.19 The funding agreement with National Highways for £1.04m secured through their Designated Funds for the new wet berth for the Spurn Lightship is being progressed.
- 3.20 Plans are progressing on the delivery of a large-scale cultural event in March to be delivered in partnership with Freedom Festival utilising Welcome Back funding. This is the next significant event being delivered as part of the project's Cultural Programme.

Queens Gardens

- 3.21 Planning approval was received in November both for the Queens Gardens scheme and erection of the bandstand in Pickering Park, which allows for it to be re-located from Queens Gardens.
- 3.22 A pre-start meeting has taken place with the contractor. A package of enabling works will initially be delivered involving the demolition of the café building, relocating the bandstand to Pickering Park and undertaking the Rose Bowl Fountain refurbishment.
- 3.23 The contractor has been issued with a full package of drawings and site information, and the process of working towards agreeing a target cost with the contractor for the main works has commenced.

Guildhall Time Ball

- 3.24 Work continues on site, which is being delivered concurrently with Phase 2 of the Guildhall roof repairs, by the same contractor. The Time Ball mechanism and ball have now been installed and works with testing and fine-tuning taking place. The works are now concentrating around stonework repairs to the Guildhall tower.

Old Town Regeneration

Hull Old Town Heritage Action Zone (HAZ)

- 3.25 Discussions are ongoing with the potential archaeological contractor, Humber Field Archaeology (HFA), to agree a method statement and proposed costs. A National Highways funding agreement will be put in place to confirm the funding. The HEY Volunteering services will be used to engage volunteers for the community archaeology programme. HEY Volunteering will act as a hub for recruitment, dissemination of master-classes and booking for the project, working closely with the archaeological contractor. Procurement of the landscaping designer was approved, and the tender is out to market with a 21 December deadline for responses, and an appointment expected end of January 2022.
- 3.26 Following approval from Cabinet, the updated Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan for Hull Old Town completed its statutory six-week public consultation in late March. The revised documentation received positive press coverage and final versions are to be submitted to Cabinet for approval in late Spring.
- 3.27 Humber High Street Challenge Fund: A total of eight grants have now been awarded for Whitefriargate and surrounding area including Silver Street and Princes Quay that will improve 10 building frontages, bring 3,098.5m sq floorspace back into use and create 77 new fte jobs.

- 3.28 High Street Heritage Action Zone: Progress is being made with a number of priority schemes with a view to completing the works in early 2022: Beverley Gate interpretation and upgrade; New façade lighting scheme through Whitefriargate; Funding grant allocated for 7-9 Whitefriargate and a funding grant for 34-35 Whitefriargate
- 3.29 Levelling Up Fund: An inception meeting with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities was held on 14 December to progress the documentation required to formalise the £19.5m grant offer. This is anticipated to be executed off by both parties in the new year and as such a key decision notification is currently being processed. Pending authorisation to deliver the project, preparation works are continuing to enable the regeneration scheme to commence as soon as all necessary formal agreements are in place.

C4DI @ Fruit Market

- 3.30 The additional new 3-storey office buildings at C4DI is complete. The remaining office block will commence as soon as commercial interest has consolidated.

Pickering Park Aviary

- 3.31 Work continues to prepare the enclosures and off-show facilities ahead of a zoo licence inspection which is scheduled for February 2021. The arrangements for a formal opening of the facility will be confirmed based upon the advice received from the veterinary experts involved in the licensing process.

Events, Tourism & Arts

- 3.32 The events team have coordinating a varied series of events over the Christmas period culminating in an ice sculpture trail that included a live carving of a Santa post box and a Christmas sleigh. All of the activity has been exceptionally well received with local businesses being very complementary about the added programming in the city centre in the lead up to Christmas.
- 3.33 The Events Teams are currently working with a number of partners for a busy programme of events and attractions to be delivered in the city centre starting in January with a series of new lighting in Queen Victoria square working with acclaimed artist Katayoun Dowlatshahi.
- 3.34 The team are also currently working with a number of partners including Warner Brothers fantastic beasts, Festival 2022 and HYMC to develop a number of events for the first quarter of next year. All event plans will be announced shortly once final details and press launches have been finalised.

- 3.35 The team are also working closely with public health colleagues to ensure all forthcoming events are held in accordance with current guidance and align with the cities covid recovery programme.
- 3.36 The council has once again been chosen as the host nation for Fiji for the rescheduled 2022 Rugby league world cup. It has been confirmed that we will once again host three games in the tournament including a double header of the men's and women's quarter finals at the MKM stadium. This year will also see all games played using the Sully ball which has been named after Clive Sullivan which has been well received by the whole rugby league family.
- 3.37 The Whitefriargate Cultural Consortium Programme will resume in February with the commissioning of 3 artists who's work will reflect the "silver" theme.
- 3.38 National Highways are carrying out a number of projects to improve the A63 (Castle St). The High Street underpass project aims to improve the pedestrian access from Market Place and High Street, and also improve the experience of going through the underpass using an artwork which Hull City Council will be delivering on behalf of National Highways.
- 3.39 The Welcome Back Fund (Formally Reopening the Highstreet fund) of £560k was awarded by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities, to Hull City Council to support public Covid-19 secure messaging, support businesses with updates and collateral and to encourage people back to the high streets and city centres and drive footfall when restrictions were lifted. The remaining budget in the fund will support activity including parklets, city centre animation, lighting and an event in partnership with Freedom Festival Arts trust in March.

River Hull + (River Hull Inlet Project)

- 3.40 The Environment Agency is utilising its existing frameworks agreement to deliver the scheme. The Council is providing project management resource and is acting as the financially responsible organisation for the ERDF. This project will reduce the flood risk to some 2055 businesses.
- 3.41 Works are complete, other than works to the main dock gates to ensure they can open one more time to receive the Arctic Corsair, and waiting final accounts.

Covid-19 Response

- 3.42 The City Centre C-19 Task Force wider partnership approach continues with engagement with city centre businesses is ongoing.

Hull Business Improvement District

- 3.43 Following agreement at Cabinet, the BID have been re-elected to secure a further term of operation from September.

Hull Culture and Leisure Ltd

- 3.44 Following on from the successful Healthy Holidays Summer Programme, Hull City Council commissioned the Leisure department further to deliver a Winter activity package during half term. The programme included free swimming and skating passes; sessions also included a hot meal voucher.
- 3.45 By the end of November over 6000 people had visited the Hull Ice Arena since it opened on 25 October 2021, an increase of 31.5% over the same period 2019. A total of 277 spectators attended the Jets first home game on 6 November. This was a fantastic turn out and demonstrates that some of the previous pirates' fans came along to support the Jets. During the 2019 season, Jets games rarely exceeded 100 spectators.
- 3.46 Although there are some exceptions, other productions are nearing sell-out capacity (several at Hull City Hall; mainly headline comedy) and 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' at Hull New Theatre achieved 1,100 to 1,200 attendees at every performance.
- 3.47 The pantomime position is improving. Whilst school and group bookings are reduced general sales are picking up. We anticipate we will achieve the first call of the deal to the producer but as this deal is no longer on a percentage split basis; this still presents financial risk in covering other costs.
- 3.48 The Hull & East Riding Museum Celtic village and Roman gallery are due to re-open after further work to ventilation system and sign off by H&S and property team. Work on the ventilation of the upstairs galleries at Streetlife Museum continue to enable these also to open. Wilberforce House and Hands on History Museum remain closed due to ongoing concern, but alternative options are being reviewed and we hope to trial limited access by small groups early in the New Year. The ongoing challenge of ensuring we follow the CIBSE guidance on ventilation is common across the sector which in the main occupies old properties with limited mechanical ventilation.

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Officer Interests: None Background Documents: - None