

REPORT FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO: WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE

DATE: 31 JANUARY 2023

Report Author: Neil Yates
Tel. No: 01282 661055
E-mail: neil.yates@pendle.gov.uk

**BARNOLDSWICK AND EARBY TOWN CENTRES –
UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND PROJECTS**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members about options to improve traffic flow and pedestrian areas in Barnoldswick town centre and the re-flagging of Victoria Road, Earby.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the Committee resolve to approve improvements to the footways outside Nos. 3 & 5 and 7 to 9 Newtown as part of Year 1 of the UKSPF project.
- (3) That the Committee agree the preferred option for Barnoldswick town centre based on the designs shown in Appendices A to D.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To enable the design of the improvements to Barnoldswick town centre to be progressed and for further engagement with Lancashire County Council.
- (2) To improve traffic flow and pedestrian accessibility for the benefit of users of the town centre.

BACKGROUND

1. Members of the Committee had attended a site visit on 23rd August 2022 with the Council's Engineering Manager and LCC Operations Engineer to discuss improving the traffic flow and pedestrian areas in Barnoldswick town centre.

2. At the meeting of the Committee on 6th September 2022, it was resolved that agreement be approved in principle for the Engineering Manager to consult on the various options.
3. The Council has been awarded funding from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund to carry out public realm and traffic management improvements in Barnoldswick town centre, the funding details for which are listed below.

BARNOLDSWICK TOWN CENTRE			
PROJECT INCOME SUMMARY	PROJECT AMOUNT £	YEAR 1 2022/23	YEAR 2 2023/24
Pendle BC UKSPF Allocation	£47,396	£16,540	£30,856
Section 106 Match Funding	£7,230	£7,230	
TOTAL(S)	£54,626	£23,770	£30,856

4. It has been indicated that the funding allocated to Year 1 will be able to be spent in the 2023/24 financial year, which will enable works to be carried out at the same time as those identified for Year 2 and therefore minimise disruption to the town centre. The Section 106 funding would also be able to be spent in 2023/24.
5. Earby has received an allocation from the same fund to carry out public realm improvements in Victoria Road. These works consist of re-flagging the existing footways outside Nos. 7 to 69 and 34 to 64, including accessibility improvements and enhanced street furniture.

EARBY TOWN CENTRE			
PROJECT INCOME SUMMARY	PROJECT AMOUNT £	YEAR 1 2022/23	YEAR 2 2023/24
Pendle BC UKSPF Allocation	£100,000		£100,000
West Craven Committee (10/05/22)	£15,000	£15,000	
TOTAL(S)	£115,000	£15,000	£100,000

6. The scheme has been estimated to cost £140,000 and will therefore require additional funding or to be value engineered to a suitable costing. An exact price will be obtained as a result of tendering the project and better value may be obtained as a result.
7. The UKSPF funding for the Victoria Road project is to be spent in 2023/24 and would require this Committee's allocation to be carried forward into that financial year.
8. Further to liaison with Lancashire County Council, finalised designs will be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee and it is expected that the project will be tendered in spring 2023 with works due to commence in summer 2023.

OPTIONS

9. The Year 1 funding for Barnoldswick was earmarked for upgrading the footways outside Nos. 3 & 5 and 7 to 9 Newtown, as shown in Appendices A to D. This would be done by replacing the existing paving materials with new high quality stone flags and widening the existing footways to improve pedestrian accessibility.

10. The remaining funding for Year 2 has been designated towards public realm and traffic management improvements in the town centre, options for which are shown in the following appendices –
 - Appendix A – Frank Street to be one way from its junction with Rainhall Road;
 - Appendix B – Frank Street to be one way, the carriageway surface on Newtown to be raised between Church Street and Orchard Street, creating shared space;
 - Appendix C – Frank Street to be made one way, the existing one way route on Newtown and Rainhall Road to be reversed and the section of Newtown between Church Street and Orchard Street to be pedestrianised;
 - Appendix D – Frank Street to be made one way, the existing one way route on Newtown and Rainhall Road to be reversed and extended to the junction with Fernlea Avenue.
11. There is scope for additional funding to be allocated to both projects as part of the third year of funding from the UKSPF. The amount to be allocated, if any, is not expected to be determined imminently, but could enable the projects to be further expanded, incorporating additional improvements in Newtown and Rainhall Road in Barnoldswick and in Colne Road in Earby.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. To approve in principle the re-paving and widening of the footways outside Nos. 3 & 5 and 7 to 9 Newtown, financed from the Year 1 allocation of the UKSPF. These works will require the consent of Lancashire County Council but would form an extension of the footway improvements already carried out nearby.
13. To determine the extent of traffic management measures to be carried out, as outlined in Appendices A to D. The preferred design will then be further developed in conjunction with liaison with Lancashire County Council and would be funded as part of the Year 2 allocation from the UKSPF.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy:

None arising directly from the report.

Financial:

The works will be funded from the Council's allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in addition to match funding from an existing Section 106 agreement. The proposed works meet the requirements of both funding allocations for both Barnoldswick and Earby.

Legal:

Formal approval will need to be obtained from Lancashire County Council (LCC) as Highway Authority, with works to be carried out as per their specification. LCC will then take on responsibility for the paving and associated infrastructure upon completion of the works.

Risk Management:

None arising directly from the report.

Health and Safety:

Works will be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced contractor as approved by the Council, in accordance with relevant health and safety legislation. Lancashire County Council will resume maintenance responsibility for the assets upon completion of the works.

Sustainability:

The paving materials would be sourced from a local supplier and the works undertaken by an approved local contractor as part of the procurement exercise.

Community Safety:

The proposed improvements focus on improving accessibility for pedestrians and aim to improve visitors' safety and perception of the town centres.

Equality and Diversity:

The improvements to the footways will include enhanced drop crossings to aid people with mobility issues to access the town centres.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Design Option A (Drawing No. E0840D/1)
Appendix B	Design Option B (Drawing No. E0840D/2)
Appendix C	Design Option C (Drawing No. E0840D/3)
Appendix D	Design Option D (Drawing No. E0840D/4)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS