

REPORT FROM: Director of Place

TO: Colne and District Committee

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For Information

Colne Levelling Up Fund Programme Update for Period October 2023

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on Colne Levelling Up Fund projects.

ISSUE

The Colne Levelling Up Fund (LUF) projects consist of the Heritage Quarter and Colne Market, this report provides an update of the status of both projects:

Heritage Quarter

Structural issues have been identified to the tower at the Municipal Theatre, and some of the internal ceilings have also fallen away during decorating works.

Liberata report that these additional works together with other variations have added £131,000 to the costs against an original contingency of c£90,000. However they are still optimistic of delivering the project within the original cost budget. Some additional 'nice to have' elements of the project may now need to be funded separately at a future point. These decisions can not be finalised until final accounts are settled for the structural and ceiling repairs and other variations.

The variations reported above will also add 6-8 weeks onto the programme. A revised confirmed construction programme is awaited so the impact on the performance schedule can be ascertained.

Works are proceeding to schedule and budget at the Hippodrome Theatre. Some productions are continuing to take place during this time, while works are concentrated in the former public house building.

Works have commenced at The Little Theatre and are proceeding to schedule and within the anticipated cost envelope.

Market Hall

The Planning Application for the Market Hall has been submitted and validated. Determination is expected in November, to allow for a January start to construction works ahead of a 15 month build programme.

Quarterbridge Consultants have been procured to advise on options for the future operation of the market, the new foodhall and the internal layout of the new market stalls and will be starting work in November.

Preparatory works for the fit-out to allow for temporary accommodation of Market Stalls in Poundland have commenced.

A temporary fix to the boilers in the Market Hall has been found to provide some warmth in the building for the Christmas Shopping period and a programme of festive events has been worked up in support of this important period for traders.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.